

Baby and four others killed in Algiers blast

ALGIERS (AFP) — At least five people, including a baby, were killed and 16 injured after a bomb exploded in central Algiers in mid-afternoon Sunday, security forces said. Dozens of ambulances and police cars were seen racing to the city centre and the area around Port Said Square, where witnesses said a bomb had been planted in a bus stop. "It's a panic," said a resident living near the central post office, who added that private vehicles raced away from the scene carrying the injured. The explosion, which occurred at 4:15 p.m., came four days before Algeria's first legislative elections, the first since a campaign of violence involving Islamist extremists broke out five years ago. On Saturday, one person died and 24 others were injured when a bomb exploded in a cinema in Algiers.

Jordan Times

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King visits army headquarters

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday visited the Armed Forces' headquarters. He met Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Mirai Kaabneh, chief of the Royal Ground Forces and his aides, the Armed Forces' inspector general and chief of the Royal Air Force and discussed a number of issues related to the Armed Forces.

King concedes Nathir Rashid

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday visited Minister of Interior Nathir Rashid's residence to convey his condolences on the passing of his mother, Shahah Hiyari. Al Rashid and Al Hiyari families expressed their appreciation of and gratitude for the King's visit.

Majali wishes Al Ra'i well on its birthday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday sent a cable to Chairman of the Jordan Press Foundation's (JPF) Board of Directors Mahmoud Al Kayed in which he congratulated Al Ra'i on its 27th anniversary. In his cable, Dr. Majali expressed his appreciation of Al Ra'i's achievements and wished that its writers would pursue their efforts to serve their nation.

Israel jails Palestinian security agent for 3 years

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An Israeli court on Sunday jailed a Palestinian security agent for 40 months for kidnapping an Arab from east Jerusalem and taking him to the Palestinian-ruled town of Ramallah on the West Bank where he was held for several days. The abduction sparked a crisis between Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PNA), which sealed off Ramallah until Mr. Harbawi was set free. Mr. Harbawi was involved in a property dispute with the Egyptian Coptic Church, on whose behalf the PNA was acting. Palestinian security services are not allowed to operate in east Jerusalem, which Israel occupied in 1967.

Iran commissions electron accelerator

TEHRAN (R) — Iran has commissioned a \$33 million electron accelerator to be used for industrial purposes, state-run Tehran Radio said Sunday. It said Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation opened the accelerator in the central city of Yazd. It was built for \$33.3 million with the help of Belgian and French technicians. The accelerator will be used for various industrial purposes, the radio added. Iran has said its nuclear programme is strictly civilian and open to international inspection, denying U.S. charges it seeks to develop nuclear arms.

French socialism romps home in stunning final election upset

Chirac to share power with left-wing cabinet

PARIS (R) — France's socialist-led opposition won a stunning parliamentary election triumph in Sunday's decisive second-round runoff, forcing President Jacques Chirac to share power with a hostile left-wing government.

Projections broadcast after the last polls closed at 8 p.m. gave the socialists and their non-communist allies an absolute majority of seats in the 577-member National Assembly even without the Communist party, forecast to win 35-36 seats.

Just 40 minutes after polling stations closed, conservative prime minister Alain Juppe went on television to concede defeat and wish the left well in government.

"The people have spoken. Their decision is sovereign."

We all respect it. I wish good luck to those who will now govern France and I wish good luck to France," the outgoing premier said.

"We did not manage to convince the French people that we were going in the right direction," he said in a brief statement in his Bordeaux constituency.

The projected outcome was a crushing defeat for Mr. Chirac's centre-right coalition, which held 464 seats in the outgoing lower house of parliament.

The president, who dissolved parliament on April 21 saying he needed a "new élan" to lead France into a single European currency from a position of strength, seems bound to call on socialist leader Lionel Jospin to form a government.

It will be the third time in

11 years that France has had a period of left-right power-sharing known as "cohabitation."

Projections by three leading polling institutes suggested the centre-right coalition would lose almost half its seats.

The ecologists were set to enter parliament for the first time with seven or eight seats and the extreme-right National Front, despite polling 15 per cent in last Sunday's first round, would win just one seat.

National Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen said Mr. Chirac had suffered a double defeat and should resign.

Mr. Jospin has said he supports European economic and monetary union but would not impose a further bout of austerity to meet the strict criteria to

qualify for the single currency in 1999.

He has said he will seek new European negotiations on giving greater priority to employment and economic growth, on including Italy, Spain and Portugal in the single currency from the start and on ensuring the euro was not overvalued against the dollar.

The socialist leader watched the results with his wife in his constituency of Cointegabelle, near Toulouse in southwestern France. He looked impassive as campaign workers applauded and cheered the televised news of his victory, noting the results on a slip of paper and allowing himself a wry smile.

Communist leader Robert Hue, declaring "a great

(Continued on page 2)

Israel says it has evidence PNA killed land dealers

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli police said on Sunday they had "solid evidence" that a security branch of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) bore responsibility for the killing of two Palestinian land dealers.

"There is solid evidence that one of the Palestinian intelligence branches is responsible for the two cases in addition to the kidnapping," police spokeswoman Linda Menuhin told Reuters.

Ms. Menuhin said Israeli police on Saturday arrested six Palestinians as they were abducting an Arab

land dealer in the Jerusalem area. She said four of the six worked for a branch of Palestinian security.

The man who was kidnapped was known to have cooperated with land dealer Ali Mohammad Jumhour, 34, found dead on Saturday, the spokeswoman said.

Jumhour was the third land dealer slain since Palestinian Justice Minister Freih Abu Medeen said last month Arabs who sold land to Israel would face the death penalty. All three victims were shot in the head at close range.

Ms. Menuhin said the Palestinian intelligence

branch, which she did not name, bore responsibility for the killing of Jumhour and Farid Bashiti, the first dealer killed.

Israeli officials had already said they suspected Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's administration was involved in the killings but PNA officials deny it.

"This is nonsense, the authority is not involved in the killing of those dealers, brokers, traitors," Mr. Abu Medeen told reporters in self-ruled Gaza. "I accuse the Israelis, and I'm sure

(Continued on page 5)

Egyptian envoy holds new round of talks with Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Egyptian envoy Osama Al-Baz held talks here Sunday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as part of Egypt's efforts to break the Middle East peace stalemate, officials said.

Israel Radio reported "some progress" during the two-and-a-half hour meeting, the second between the two men in a week, but Mr. Netanyahu's spokesman Michael Stolz refused to make any comment about the talks.

Israeli Foreign Minister

David Levy and Egypt's ambassador to the Jewish state, Mohammed Bassiuny, also took part in the discussions.

Palestinian officials said Mr. Baz, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's top political advisor, was expected in the Gaza Strip later Sunday to brief the Palestinians on the results of the meeting in Jerusalem.

However, Mr. Baz would not be meeting with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat who left for Zimbabwe earlier Sunday to attend

a conference of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

Before leaving for Israel, Mr. Baz held a meeting with top Palestinian peace negotiators Saeb Erekat and Hassan Asfur who arrived in Cairo on Saturday.

Mr. Mubarak said Saturday that Mr. Baz's mission to Israel on Sunday was to obtain the Israeli response to Palestinian demands aimed at ending the impasse in the peace process.

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Erekat says Israel-PNA gap bigger than most people think

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The gap in Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking is far greater than people think, PNA negotiator Saeb Erekat said on Sunday.

"So far the Israeli government still insists on continuing settlement activities and I think the gap between the two sides is much bigger than people think," he told Israel Radio.

Talks have been in crisis since Israeli leader Benjamin Netanyahu broke ground in March on a Jewish settlement on the outskirts of Arab east Jerusalem.

"As long as Mr.

Netanyahu continues his settlement activities and confiscation of land and building in Abu Gineim and other areas, I don't think we will have a meaningful negotiation or a meaningful peace process," Mr. Erekat said.

Mr. Netanyahu has insisted Israel has a right to build on land captured in the 1967 Middle East war, including east Jerusalem.

The east Jerusalem settlement of 6,500 units for Jews, known in Hebrew as Har Homa, is going up on a Palestinian hill called Jabal Abu Gineim.

"Mr. Netanyahu must

stop, must freeze settlement activities, if he wants to give a chance to the peace process, if he wants to have a negotiation that has a meaning," Mr. Erekat said.

The Israeli leader and Mr. Erekat were to meet Egyptian envoy Osama Al-Baz separately on Sunday.

An Egyptian government newspaper said Mr. Al Baz would seek "to find out Mr. Netanyahu's reaction to Palestinian proposals" emerging from a meeting Mr. Al Baz had with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat a few days ago.

Israeli warplanes attack south Lebanon

SIDON (AFP) — Israeli warplanes carried out two raids within an hour on Hizbollah positions in south Lebanon on Sunday after four guerrilla attacks against the Israeli forces, Lebanese police said.

Two Israeli jets first fired two missiles at Hizbollah positions dug into rocks in the Iqlim At-Tuffa heights, east of the port city of Sidon, the police said.

The jets later fired two more rockets at Hizbollah positions near Sultaniyeh on the edge of the "security zone" occupied by Israel in south Lebanon.

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Austrian troops in the Golan were shot at close range

VIENNA (AFP) — An autopsy has revealed that the two Austrian U.N. soldiers found dead in a U.N.-patrolled no-man's land in the Golan Heights were shot at point blank range, an Austrian officer said Sunday.

The autopsy carried out Saturday also revealed the two soldiers did not shoot each other. Lieutenant Nikolaus Egger, head of the Austrian Battalion on the Golan, told Austrian ORF Radio.

The bodies of the 26-year-old and 40-year-old soldiers in the United Nations Disengagement Force (UNDUF) on the Golan were found Friday and will be flown home to Austria Wednesday, he said.

An official autopsy report will be released in

(Continued on page 2)

Egypt seizes toys made from hospital waste

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian police have seized thousands of toys from a factory in the northern city of Alexandria which were made with hospital waste, including used syringes and test tubes, a newspaper reported Sunday. Police took 50 sacks of hospital waste from the factory, as well as 10,000 small tumbourines, 6,000 toy trumpets and 4,000 other toys made from the hospital cast-offs, said the opposition Al Wafd paper. Police told the newspaper that the hospital waste was used in the manufacture of plastic toys, which as a result carried the risk of infecting children with diseases. Deputy Interior Minister General Fakhri Zikri said the owner of the factory faces a prison term of between one and three years as well as a fine of between \$3,500 and 9,000.



Her Majesty Queen Noor, chair of the UNU/ILA's advisory board, and Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali at the opening of the one-month-long leadership programme held in Amman, Sunday (Photo by Youssef 'Allan)

Her Majesty launches leadership programme

Event inaugurates International Leadership Academy: First United Nations University branch in Middle East

By Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — With the ambitious aim of creating a new generation of responsible leaders dedicated to the cause of world peace and equipped with wider perspectives and more creative approaches to problem solving, Jordan launched yesterday its first leadership programme at the global level.

Over 160 participants, from high government officials to high level diplomats, international human rights lawyers, and leading university professors from 56 countries convened here

to participate in the event.

The one-month leadership programme inaugurates the newly established United Nations University (UNU)/International Leadership Academy (ILA), the only UNU branch in the Middle East, and the first UNU dealing with political issues.

"To meet the challenges of the 21st century effectively, national leaders need to use their global awareness and multidimensional perspective to improve the human condition at all levels — local, national, regional and global," Her Majesty Queen Noor told the opening session.

Speaking in her capacity as chair of the UNU/ILA's advisory board, Queen Noor urged that "the world needs leaders who, while faithful to the fundamental ideals and principles of the U.N., are able to forge new means to achieve them, leaders who appreciate and understand the crucial and direct relationship between sustainable development, participatory decision-making, and world peace."

Stressing the importance of individual qualities in shaping a leader's personality, the Queen pointed to His Majesty King Hussein.

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Her Royal Highness Lieutenant Colonel Aisha Bent Al Hussein inspects an honour guard on Sunday during a visit to an Israeli women's army base (Rueter photo)

Princess Aisha visits Israeli army sites; to meet top military officials

AMMAN (J.T.) — As head of the Directorate of Women's Affairs in the Jordanian Armed Forces, Her Royal Highness Lieutenant Colonel Princess Aisha is currently on an official three-day working visit to Israel, the International Press Office at the Royal Court announced Sunday.

The visit comes upon an invitation extended to the Princess by Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai during His Majesty King Hussein's last trip to Israel to pay condolences to the families of the girls killed by a Jordanian soldier, the Royal Court said.

Princess Aisha will be hosted by Brigadier General Israel Oron, head of the women corps in the Israeli army. The three-day trip

will include visits to different military sites where the Princess will be briefed on programmes that concern women in the Israeli army.

This visit represents a new opportunity for Princess Aisha to represent the Directorate of Women's Affairs in the Jordanian Armed Forces overseas and to work towards fulfilling the directorate's long-term goal of studying women and their integration in the army everywhere in the world.

Princess Aisha has represented the directorate in numerous countries and international conferences including the U.S., Britain and most recently, a NATO women's conference in Turkey.

During her visit to Israel, Princess Aisha will also

meet with Mr. Mordechai, Chief-of-Staff Lieutenant General Amnon Shahak and Mrs. Reuma Weizman, the wife of Israeli President Ezer Weizman.

Princess Aisha was the first woman in the Middle East to graduate in 1987 from the British Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. In 1995 Princess Aisha founded the Directorate of Women's Affairs which today handles all matters concerning women in the Jordanian Armed Forces. Reflecting her pioneering spirit and her love for a challenge, Princess Aisha became the first woman in the Middle East to complete five military parachute jumps and receive her airborne wings.

Iraq accuses U.S. of killing 30,000 children

BAGHDAD (R) — An Iraqi minister said on Sunday delays in the arrival of food and medical supplies under Iraq's oil-for-food deal with the United Nations had caused the death of at least 30,000 children in the past six months.

"This is an act of genocide committed by America," Trade Minister Mohammad Mehdi Saleh told a news conference, accusing the United States of being behind the delays.

He said while Iraq had exported all the oil it was allowed to under the deal, the quantity of food arriving so far was only 700,000 tonnes — a fraction of the 2.4 million tonnes that had been expected to be delivered over six months.

"During these six months at least 30,000 Iraqi children died," he said. "It is the responsibility of the United States for losing the lives of 30,000 children."

Iraq cut food rations for its 20 million people on Thursday, saying it would not be able to meet all food quotas agreed upon under its oil deal with the United Nations. Iraq is under crippling U.N. trade sanctions for invading Kuwait in 1990.

The oil-for-food deal allowed Iraq to export \$2 billion worth of oil over a six-month period starting last December and use most of the earnings to import food and medicines under U.N. supervision.

Iraq has only received one truckload of 61 tonnes of medical supplies in the past six months. The ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra said Washington had cancelled or held up 228 con-

tracts out of 612 submitted to the U.N. sanctions committee by Baghdad.

Iraq said on Friday it had completed the oil exports and was awaiting a U.N. Security Council offer to renew the pact.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said on Thursday one out of every four Iraqi children was suffering from malnutrition.

Mr. Saleh said the oil deal was hailed as a humanitarian offer but "the United States politicised the programme."

He said Washington was discriminating between suppliers when contracts were offered for approval. "They accept some and reject others and the contracts are exactly the same...They (contracts) should be evaluated according to commercial practices."

Mr. Saleh said he noted an increase in the contracts passed by the sanctions committee in the past two days. He attributed the rise to world pressure on Washington.

He said the approved contracts would enable Iraq to import rice from Vietnam, sugar from both Egypt and China and wheat and white beans from the United States.

"We confirm we have concluded a 250,000 tonne wheat contract with the U.S. We have also concluded a 50,000 tonne sugar contract and a 6,000 tonne contract for white beans," he said.

Mr. Saleh said he received a delegation of U.S. rice traders on Sunday in the hope of concluding a rice deal with Washington. "We are not applying an embargo on American companies although U.S. is applying an embargo on us," he said.



An Iraqi woman angrily shouts in condemnation of the Turkish invasion of the north of her country during a demonstration in Baghdad on Sunday. She was with a group of some 1500 women, Iraqi and Arabs, protesting in front of the Turkish embassy (photo by Reuters)

Yemen union to help journalists appeal sentence of 80 lashes

SANAA (AP) — The Yemen Journalists Union said Sunday that it will help two journalists appeal a court sentence of 80 lashes for their convictions on charges of defamation.

Abdul Bari Taher, the union's head, said a number of lawyers have volunteered to help the newsmen make their appeal.

Abdullah Saad, editor of Al Shura weekly newspaper, and his brother Abdul Jabbar Saad, a reporter, were convicted last Tuesday on charges of defamation of character.

The court sentenced each to 80 lashes, barred them

from working for a year and ordered them to pay a fine of 100,000 riyals (\$1000). Al Shura newspaper was ordered closed for six months.

The two were sued for defamation by a prominent cleric in the opposition Islamic Isha Party, Sheikh Abdul Majeed Al Zindani.

He said he had been defamed by an article published in the paper last year that said even religious clerics were not above engaging in immoral behaviour.

Al Zindani was not mentioned by name in the article, but the court was told

that the statement applied to him as well as other clerics.

The sentence has caused an outcry in Yemen, one of the few Arab countries with a relatively free press.

In a statement issued Saturday, the journalists union condemned the sentence to lashings as "a dangerous precedent that will have a negative effect on the freedom of expression in our country."

Yemen is a poor country of around 17 million on the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula.

Shelter protecting mosaics at Petra Byzantine church completed

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Akel Biltaji Sunday announced the completion of work on a shelter protecting the mosaics found at the Byzantine church in the ancient Nabatean city of Petra. The project carried out by the American Centre of Oriental Research (ACOR) in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities with funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Addressing a press conference, the minister said that the shelter was part of an integrated project for the restoration of the ancient Byzantine church undertaken by archaeologists representing 23 American and Canadian universities.

The restoration work

took five years to complete and cost around \$2 million provided by donor institutions and USAID according to Pierre Bikai, ACOR's director who said that the shelter itself cost around \$250,000.

In 1992, ACOR began the excavation of a large Byzantine building in the heart of Petra and "within a few weeks, we knew we had important mosaics and began to plan for what should happen when the excavation was finished," Mr. Bikai said.

He explained that a shelter which was built with the help of the latest technologies was necessary if the mosaics, which are fragile, are to be protected because if left to the elements of nature they will inevitably deteriorate.

According to Mr. Bikai,

the archaeologists found 152 manuscripts of 200 metres in length and a 23-metre long and three-metre wide mosaic plate, adding that the mosaics are now being prepared for public viewing.

Mr. Bikai outlined ACOR's work on projects in the Kingdom naming among other things excavations at Pella, Umm Qais, an archaeological park in Aqaba that contains the oldest mosque in Jordan, the Citadel in Amman and the Madaba archaeological park.

Both Mr. Bikai and the minister expressed appreciation to USAID and the other agencies which helped fund the restoration work and the construction of the shelter.

Her Majesty launches...

(Continued from page 1)

her "most admired leader in the world, who is not so important for name or gender, but for... forgiveness, compassion and generosity of spirit... not for infallibility, but tranquility... for integrity, optimism, unwavering conviction and faith, pride in heritage and belief in unlimited possibility and responsibility to all members of the larger community and future generations."

Describing the objectives and characteristics of Amman's new UNU, the Queen said "the ILA hopes to cultivate a network of enlightened men and women who have the knowledge to synthesise solutions to complex problems from a wide range of sources, and the skill to put those solutions into action, inspiring others to new levels of awareness and commitment."

"Rather than concentrating on one specific issue or problem with the tools of academic research, the Academy's holistic approach hopes to provide the leaders of succeeding generations with wider perspectives, more creative approaches to problem solving, and greater aware-

ness of how different sectors influence one another.

"And, rather than post-graduate students studying with professors, those training at the Academy will be working directly with prominent current practitioners of the art of leadership," the Queen said.

Nearly 50 between celebrities of diplomacy and international politics, consummate politicians and heads of numerous international organisations will deliver lectures in the five fora of the programme: The U.N. and the Challenges of Global Leadership; Leadership Skills and Attitudes; Peace and Security; South-Leadership; International Leadership.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, UNU/ILA Director Adel Safi, UNU Rector Heitor de Souza, President of the World Academy of Art and Science Harlan Cleveland, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Deputy Director-General Adnan Budran, and Tareq Hussein from the World Bank co-chaired the opening session.

In his welcoming remarks, Dr. Majali, who, having championed the idea

of such an institution 14 years ago, was described by his co-chairs as the "father" of the UNU/ILA, said "our vision is one where the commitment to peace and to the sanctity of the principles of the U.N. would become the foundation of the leadership training at the global level."

"It is a vision which would unify people around the common values espoused by different cultures, and effectively create a true world community, that would seek construction, and avoid war and conflict," the premier told participants.

Mr. Cleveland, who was assistant secretary of state in the Kennedy administration, U.S. ambassador to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) under the Johnson and Nixon administrations and authored many articles and books on leadership, "sketched" at the opening session the main points of the lectures he will be delivering in the course of the programme.

Information, he said, has become the world's most important resource, and it is the key to explain "some of the biggest why-questions about the times ahead of

us," such as "why, in our communities and our world, 'nobody' can possibly be in general charge of anything, why diversity will be the law of life and of leadership on this planet, ... and why, more and more, the followers everywhere so often get to policy answers before their leaders do."

Speakers for the next month include: Jan Ege-land, Norway's secretary of state for foreign affairs; Simone Veil, former president of the European Parliament; Noel Brown, former director of the United Nations Energy Agency (UNEA); Egypt's Foreign Minister Amr Musa and Senior Political Advisor to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Osama Baz.

Former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres is scheduled to deliver a lecture on "Leadership, Peace and Security in the Middle East" on June 20.

In addition to Dr. Majali, Jordan will be represented at the illustrious forum by Minister of Foreign Affairs Faysel Tarawneh, Deputy Prime Minister Jawad Anani, and former Prime Minister Zeid Rifai.

Austrian troops...

(Continued from page 1)

the next few days, he added.

Despite "excellent cooperation" with the Syrian authorities, the investigation has made no progress, Lt. Egger told the Austrian Press Agency (APA).

The soldiers' bodies were found by a patrol of Austrian U.N. soldiers in the demilitarised buffer zone dividing Syrian and Israeli lines on the Golan plateau around eight kilometres north of the Druze town of Majd Al Shams.

A spokesman for the Austrian Defence Ministry in Vienna said Friday that the exact circumstances surrounding the deaths of the men, a junior officer and a soldier, were still unclear.

It is the first incident since the U.N. force was set up in May 1974 under a disengagement accord between Israel and Syria following the October 1973 war.

UNDOF has a total of 1,200 soldiers including 400 from Austria and is charged with ensuring the two sides remain disengaged and that the ceasefire agreement is not broken.

French socialism romps home...

(Continued from page 1)

hope is born," said his party hoped to join "a government of the whole left" on the basis of a joint policy declaration issued with the socialists last month.

Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the socialists' likely finance minister, said the right had lost because of unemployment.

"In 1993, the French people told the socialists they didn't want them any more I think because we hadn't succeeded on unemployment. The majority in place since then has not succeeded either and above all it has created enormous poverty," he said.

The socialists have pledged to create 700,000 jobs for young people, half of them in the public sector, over the next three years, and reduce the working week to 35 from 39 hours over five years without loss of pay.

Hundreds of cheering socialist supporters gate-crashed the movement's victory party at a Paris cultural centre, overwhelming guards who had orders to admit only 2,000 invited guests and journalists.

Rhythmic chants of "on a gague, on a gague" (we won, we won) greeted the announcement of the sensational election result on giant television screens.

At the centre-right's campaign headquarters, there was stunned silence from the ranks of grim-faced activists.

The computer projections gave the combined left between 325 and 334 seats, well over the 289 seats required for a majority.

The right's debacle was amplified from last Sunday's first round despite an increase in turnout to 72 per cent, from 68 per cent on May 25.

'Israel to attend Doha summit if peace talks revive'

DUBAI (R) — Qatar's foreign minister said Israel could be invited to a Middle East-North Africa (MENA) economic summit in Doha in November if it changed its position in Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Sheikh Hamad Ben Jassim Ben Jabr Al Thani said it was too early to talk about Israel's attendance, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said Sunday.

"Based on progress in the peace process ... and in case there is an improvement in the peace process and a change in the Israeli position then it would be possible to extend an invitation to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to attend the conference," it quoted him saying.

Sheikh Hamad was speaking at a news conference at the end of a two-day meeting of Gulf Arab foreign ministers in the Saudi capital Riyadh late Saturday, SPA said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 7311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:40 Spirou
16:05 Neighbours
16:30 Doc. — In The Wild
17:00 Tilt
18:10 French Programmes
19:00 News in French
19:30 News Headline
19:35 Comedy — Parenthood
20:00 Discover Magazine
20:30 Murder She Wrote
21:10 Highlander
22:00 News in English
22:35 The Wright Verdict
23:15 Homicide

PRAYER TIMES

03:53 Fajr
05:26 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:33 Dhuhur
16:14 Asr
19:41 Maghreb
21:14 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweifeh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation

Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366

Anglican Church Tel. 652826.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church
Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Armenian International Church
Tel. 827126

Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel.
654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel.
675691.

The Evangelical Local Church
in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.
614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Depart-

ment of Meteorology

Temperatures are expected to rise

slightly with moderate weather

conditions prevailing and winds

northerly moderate to active.

In Aqaba, winds will be northerly

moderate to active and seas calm.

Min/Max temp.

Amman 15/28

Aqaba 20/37

Deserts 13/31

Jordan Valley 18/34

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 26, Aqaba 26 Humidity

readings: Amman 35 per cent,

Aqaba 32 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Mazen Nhal 830435

Dr. Faysel Dabbas 759155

Dr. Adnan Zaghoul 898140

Dr. Fakher Bilbeisi 552233

Firas pharmacy 661912

Fendows pharmacy 778336

Al Aserna pharmacy 637055

Nairokh pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ahmad Qanu 281484

Al Quds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Zahur Qadi 906606

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue

..... 630341

Civil Defence Emer-

gency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 617101

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Dept 630321

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water & Sewage Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality Complaints

..... 787111

Telephone Information (directory

assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone

Repairs 623101

Abdali Tel. Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

J. Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Co 636362

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone

Repairs 623101

Abdali Tel. Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

J. Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Co 636362

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/2

Khalidi Maternity 644281/6

Akileh Maternity 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malhas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 607071

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3

Al-Bashir 775111/26

Army, Marka 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital 674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and

Special Surgery 865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital

..... (09)983323

Majali suggests provision of mail boxes nationwide

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday suggested to the Ministry of Post and Communications that mail boxes be used in the Kingdom.

Dr. Majali said citizens should be able to send and receive letters without having to go to post offices.

The Prime Minister's suggestion came during a visit to the ministry where

he was briefed by Minister Bassam Saket on the ministry's plans and projects.

Dr. Majali stressed the importance of the prompt delivery of letters to citizens.

In another development, the Cabinet Sunday issued a circular calling on the parties entrusted with approving construction plans and issuing building licences to take into account

the national construction codes when approving plans for public sector buildings, commercial centres and private sector housing projects.

The circular stressed the need for enforcing the approved national construction codes in the Greater Amman area.

The codes apply to buildings with an area exceeding 200 square metres.

Scholars to review Muslim-Christian cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The eighth Muslim-Christian Consultation meeting of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al al Bayt Foundation) opens tomorrow in Istanbul to look into various aspects on the central theme of "Perspectives of Cooperation and Participation Between Muslims and Christians on the Eve of the New Century," an Al al Bayt Foundation statement said Sunday.

More than 40 Muslim and Christian scholars from Arab and European countries will take part in the meeting to review research

papers dealing with the above mentioned theme from international, local and regional levels. The participants will also delve into the principles and historical practices involved in the theme of cooperation between Muslims and Christians.

The meeting is held in cooperation with the Orthodox Centre of Chambes in Switzerland at the initiative of HRH Crown Prince Hassan and Metropolitan Darnaskinos of Switzerland. The event is to be formally opened by HRH Princess Rahma Bent Al

Hassan who will deliver the Crown Prince's address at the opening session.

Al al Bayt Foundation has organised a series of Islamic-Christian seminars in cooperation with international organisations in Europe since 1984.

Foundation President Nassereddin Al Assad said the meetings serve as a platform for Islamic and Christian academic scholars to tackle common contemporary issues confronting both parties through an exchange of views.

New agreement to help provide jobs in south

AMMAN (Petra) — The Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) and the Jordanian Company for Investments and Development in Southern Jordan Sunday signed an agreement on mutual cooperation in implementing income-generating projects in Jordan's southern regions.

According to the terms of the agreement, signed by VTC Director General Ali Nasrallah and the company's general manager, Mazen Naser, the company will initiate production and income-generating projects, creating jobs for

workers graduating from training courses organised by the VTC.

The VTC, in turn, will provide managerial and technical advice and industrial guidance services for the company's projects.

It will also study the company's needs for skilled workers and the nature of work its projects require in order to train potential workers for possible employment.

According to Mr. Nasser, the company is a joint venture formed by the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company

and the Arab Potash Company.

Also Sunday an agreement was signed by the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre (RJGC) and the Lands and Survey Department (LSD) on cooperation in modernising production work on maps.

Under the agreement, the society will supply the LSD with technical data aimed at unifying specifications and standards for maps to be issued for various organisations. It will also provide training for the LSD personnel.

Civic groups to draft declaration on new press, publications law

By Amy Henderson
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A collection of representatives from several civic organisations today will meet to discuss and finalise a draft declaration of public condemnation of the new Press and Publications Law introduced two weeks ago.

The meeting appears to be the beginnings of a national coalition, sought by opposition parties, professional unions and opposition deputies in the Lower House, against the new law.

According to Salem Nahhas, head of the Higher Committee for the Coordi-

nation of Opposition Parties, the committee, in collaboration with opposition deputies and professional unions, have invited more than 200 representatives of the country's civil organisations, including the professional associations, labour unions, women and youth organisations and intellectual personalities to discuss and put their signatures to the declaration.

The draft declares the new temporary press law unconstitutional because it has not been endorsed by Parliament and has been endorsed by a "transitional government" that has not yet acquired the confidence

of Parliament.

The declaration says that the new law is "unprecedented in the history of Jordan's penal code and is alien to any country in the world" and that it negates "all the country's democratic gains achieved since the cancellation of martial law."

It also asserts that the law was adopted to "serve the government's political purposes at a time when the country is facing a crisis in the peace process and when the people of Jordan reject the Wadi Araba peace treaty."

Article 11 of the treaty requires the Jordanian and

Israeli governments to take necessary and legal measures to stem hostile propaganda.

The draft declaration contends that the press law, which states that publications shall be prohibited from publishing news which "contain insult, slander or vilification to the heads of Arab or Islamic states or friendly countries" and which "lead to unsettled relations between the Kingdom and other countries," was enacted to aid the government in implementing (Article 11) of the peace treaty.

It further accuses the government of attempting to

"stifle the public voice and political parties, restrict democratic freedoms and prevent free publication and speech" prior to the upcoming parliamentary elections, expected in November.

Mr. Nahhas said that the draft is "the main trend" of thought among civic organisations.

"These are the main points on which we think that we can agree, but it is subject to additional provisions," he said. "Our main purpose is to mobilise public opinion in defence of human rights and public freedoms."

Treasury earns JD 3.6m from foreign work permit issuance

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN (J.T.) — Secretary General of the Ministry of Labour Saleh Tarawneh Sunday said that in the past month and a half 55,086 non-Jordanian workers were issued work permits earning the treasury JD3.6 million.

The government extended the deadline for guest workers to adjust their documents to June 21, an additional three weeks from the original due date of May 31.

Last March, the ministry said it was granting foreign workers a three-month period to either obtain a

work permit or leave the country without paying fines calculated at a rate of one dinar per day for illegal stays in the country.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali last month promised to work closely with the private sector in order to create job opportunities for unemployed Jordanian workers, estimated at 18 per cent of the workforce.

The ministry prohibits non-Jordanians from working in 15 sectors and gives prominence to Jordanians looking for employment.

Judge orders editor released on bail

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A political party newspaper editor-in-chief, who was ordered detained 10 days ago on bail charges, was Saturday released on bail, judicial sources said.

Osama Rantisi, 30, editor of Al Ahali weekly, published by the Jordan People's Democratic Party (Hashd), was ordered detained by Amman Prosecutor Fouad Daradkeh, and was formally charged with lack of accuracy and objec-

tivity in reporting, and slandering and tarnishing the image and dignity of individuals.

Several requests were filed to free Mr. Rantisi on bail, but they were all rejected by the Court of First Instance.

But on Saturday, Judge Tawfiq Queisi, who looks into press and publications violation cases, ordered that he be released on bail.

Mr. Rantisi was arrested on May 23 in his office, after a lawsuit was filed by Jordan Hospital, over an article which appeared in

the May 12 issue of Al Ahali alleging that the hospital had lost JD 8 million since its establishment three years ago.

The article also alleges that Israeli investors visited the hospital and offered to cover the health facility's debts in return for shares in the enterprise.

According to the judicial source, a date is expected to be announced soon by the Court of First Instance to start hearing the case of Mr. Rantisi.

Angry government doctors to resort to old demands

By Lola Keilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Angered by a recent Cabinet decision involving the effective date of overtime allowances, government physicians yesterday said they would not simply reject the measure but would go back to their more comprehensive demands of last fall, said a Jordanian Medical Association member (JMA).

The Cabinet decided, last week, to introduce overtime allowances to public health employees as of June, although the memorandum of understanding, signed between the JMA and the government in October last year, stated that allowances should be granted in January.

JMA board member Bassem Kiswani told the Jordan Times, that "in light of the government's breach of the memorandum of understanding, the JMA

will go back to its original demands," he said.

The physicians will present three major demands to the JMA board today.

The first is an increase in the basic salaries of public health doctors in order to raise retirement wages, which are calculated on the basic salary.

The second is to allow public health doctors to open private clinics outside their working hours.

"Doctors working at Jordan University Hospital can rent a clinic at the same hospital and earn extra income," Dr. Dajani told the Jordan Times.

He added that doctors working at the Ministry of Health are not less qualified than other doctors working in the public sector, whose total salaries, including allowances, could reach up to JD 3,000 per month.

The third demand is a 35 per cent increase on overall salaries for full-time

physicians.

Dr. Dajani has asked for an urgent meeting on Thursday with the Prime Minister, according to Dr. Kiswani. The meeting has not yet been fixed.

For the past two years, the JMA and other professional associations have been pressing the government to "correct the injustices" of a Unified Allowances Law passed in 1988. The law actually withdrew some employee benefits and reduced the income of doctors and other professionals, said Dr. Dajani.

The association has called for a general assembly meeting on Friday, for all public employees who are members of professional associations to discuss the Cabinet decision.

The meeting is expected to gather 1,500 public health doctors and other government employees, said Dr. Kiswani.



The European Union Chamber Orchestra (EUCCO)

Europeans in concert

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — For the third time, the European Union Chamber Orchestra (EUCCO) is back to perform in Amman.

The orchestra will play at Amman's Citadel on Monday in a concert organised by the Delegation of the Commission of the European Union in the Kingdom, and held under the patronage of Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath.

The ensemble's unique formula of talented young

European performers will gather to play some of the finest European music. This time, however, Jordanian pianist Malak Taher will join the group to play the piano concerto in F minor BMV 1056 by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Ms. Taher is a graduate of the National Music Conservatory-Noor Al Hussein Foundation and is currently specialising at the Welsh College of Music in Wales. She is one of the most promising young Jordanian concert pianists of her generation.

F. Haendel, the Chaconne in G minor by Purcell, a

Divertimento by Mozart, a Nocturne by French composer Gabriel Faure and the famous Romanian Dances by Bela Bartok are all on the programme.

The event is held on the occasion of European Day.

The EUCCO is considered the musical ambassador of the European Union and will perform under the baton of Istvan Parkanyi.

Her Majesty Queen Sofia of Spain is the patron of the orchestra which was formed in 1981. Previous performances of EUCCO were presented in 1995 to 1996.

Arrest made in Jabal Nasser

AMMAN (J.T.) — Police Sunday apprehended a 23-year-old man in connection with the stabbing death of a man in Jabal Nasser earlier the same day, judicial sources said. According to the source, the victim, Hassan Khalaf, 25, had molested the suspect, Ali G., when he was nine years old. The source said that when the suspect saw Khalaf on the street he attacked him with a switch blade. "Fourteen years after the alleged molestation, Ali decided to exact revenge," the official source said. According to the source, Criminal Prosecutor Ali Abu Hjeleh is questioning the suspect.

Jerash festival to span the continents in live talent

By Tanya Habbjoua
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A diverse array of international arts and culture is planned for the 16th Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts, from Romanian and Chilean folkloric dancing to Tunisian poetry, festival organisers said. "This is for all people and cultures," Director General Akram Masarweh said. "Every year we try to present a new and special programme."

One special highlight of this year's festival is the opening of Jerash's North Theatre which, for the first time in 2000 years,

will come alive with modern day performances, he said.

After restorations that began in 1984, the first century AD theatre can seat as many as 1,500 people for this year's planned musical and dance performances, organisers said.

"It is romantic and beautiful to know that this theatre is holding performances again after 2000 years," Deputy General Director Jerjes Samawi told the Jordan Times.

While musicians from all over the globe are participating, the programme offers a wide selection of traditional Arab folkloric performances

from the entire region. The AMAR Corde String Quartet hails four Polish women who will present classical international and Polish music on the cello and violin, the agenda stated.

Rosemary George from the United States will sing classical songs from movies of the early forties and fifties, while the OMSK Russian Ballet group will present Tchaikovsky's "The Sleeping Beauty."

On a more traditional note, the Jordanian Karak Theatre Group will present music and songs of the area, and musical

youth groups from the University of Jordan, the Jordan University of Science and Technology, Philadelphia, and Muta Universities will also participate.

The Irbid Musical Group of Jordan will perform "Songs from Bilad Al-Sham," a varied presentation of images of "Ancient Syria."

Nominated to participate in the 1997 Jordanian Season in France, the Irbid group consists of 50 members who all hold masters degrees in music.

Director of the National Music Conservatory (NMC) of Jordan Kifah Fakhouri said

that this year's programme was ambitious and diverse.

"People are sometimes afraid of certain entertainment because they feel it's for sophisticated society," Mr. Fakhouri said. "Everybody needs a special dish of cultural flavour."

Working with the Jerash Festival since 1986, the NMC hopes that the festival will help increase music appreciation in the Kingdom, Mr. Fakhouri said.

Shakespeare will also be visiting the Arimnes Steps Theatre, from American and British theatre troupes.

The Original Shakespeare Company from the United Kingdom will present "Midsummer Night's Dream" in the manner it was performed in the 17th century.

The Bigger Light Theatre Company from the United States will perform "Much Ado About Nothing" with actor/audience participation for which the ensemble is famous.

The annual favourite "Dos Hermanas" flamenco dancing group will perform in the South Theatre, as well as Al-Ahli Circassian Folklore Group and the National Iraqi

Group. Singers from the entire Arab region, such as the Lebanese singer Wa'el Kfoury, Egyptian Hani Shaker, and Saudi Arabian Abdulmajid Abdullah will present ballads, folk, national, and love songs.

Jerash opening night will be completely devoted to Jordanian singers such as the husband and wife team of Suheir and Mustafa Sha'sha.

"We hope to create interaction between the Western and Eastern cultures through a diverse programme," festival Administrator Director Shamel Janbek asserted.

A special "artistic workshop" to be supervised by artists will be open to teach children various crafts such as textile drawing, glass, and other hand-made arts.

International and regional poets will recite famous works, Arab sculptors will display their talents, and a Folklore Fashion Show will showcase approximately 5,000 pieces of old silver and 300 traditional Arab costumes.

A full programme will be available to the public by the end of the week, Mr. Samawi said. The 18-day festival will begin July 23 and end Aug. 8.

Albright takes blunt message to Bosnia

SARAJEVO (R) — U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright flew to the Bosnian capital Sarajevo Sunday to push for full compliance with the Dayton Peace Treaty, after reprimanding the presidents of Serbia and Croatia for failing to honour the agreement.

Mrs. Albright met the Muslim, Croat and Serb members of the country's collective presidency as part of a U.S. effort to shore up the 1995 peace agreement, which ended four years of war in former Yugoslavia.

She was carrying a stern warning to Bosnian political leaders that the United States and European powers would impose penalties on any faction which violated provisions of the treaty.

Her visit coincides with growing international concern that the Dayton Agreement could be unravelling, a year before the NATO-led peace force is due to withdraw.

Nationalist authorities in Bosnia, trying to seal the results of wartime "ethnic cleansing," have prevented refugees from returning to their homes and ignored other elements of the treaty.

Mrs. Albright rebuked Bosnia's powerful neighbours Saturday, demanding that Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic ensure the extradition of indicted war criminals and the safe return of refugees.

She called for Mr. Milosevic, a key signatory of the U.S.-brokered Dayton Accords, to stop "stonewalling" and cooperate with the U.N. War Crimes Tribunal in the Hague.

She specifically cited former Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic, who still wields power in Serb-controlled territory, and three Yugoslav generals accused of atrocities near Vukovar during the 1991 Serb-Croat war.

Mr. Milosevic claimed he did not have enough information about the three generals but Mrs. Albright said she gave him tribunal documents so "he has no excuses."

Mrs. Albright had a tough meeting with Mr. Tudjman earlier in Zagreb and a direct face-off at a joint news conference.

As Mr. Tudjman looked on grim-faced, she said: "I believe it is the appropriate

role of leadership of every country to provide moral direction... and I asked President Tudjman to provide that kind of leadership."

She said she told Mr. Tudjman, who is up for reelection in two weeks' time, that he must prevent violence against Serb war refugees trying to return to Croatia and also cooperate with the War Crimes Tribunal at the Hague.

Mrs. Albright was scheduled to fly by helicopter later Sunday to the disputed northern town of Brcko, considered one of the country's most volatile flash-points.

Bosnian Serb authorities retain control of the town which they seized during the 1992-95 war. The Serbs are under pressure to allow Muslim and Croat refugees to return to their homes in Brcko, which lies along a strategic land corridor linking Serb-controlled territory to the West and East.

Mrs. Albright planned to speak with American soldiers serving in the Stabilisation Force (SFOR) before heading to the northwestern town of Banja Luka, where she was due to hold talks with Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavcic.



United States Secretary of State Madeleine Albright (left) shakes hands with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic (right) while Yugoslav Foreign Minister Milan Milutinovic smiles before official talks in Belgrade. Mrs. Albright is visiting the Balkans this weekend to carry further her campaign for compliance with the 1995 U.S.-brokered Dayton Peace Accord.

Bhutto leaves for Italy; aide stopped at Karachi Airport

KARACHI (AFP) — Former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto left here for Italy Sunday but the authorities prevented a key aide from leaving with her, airport officials said.

Munawwar Suhurwardy was barred from boarding Ms. Bhutto's flight as she left on a six-day private lecture trip, sources from her Pakistan People's Party said.

It was the second time in less than a month that one of Ms. Bhutto's aides had been barred from accompanying her on a trip abroad.

The former prime minister said the restrictions on Mr. Suhurwardy were an act of "harassment and ridiculous."

"He is innocent and is not involved in any case. He

had the right to go but the government has been harassing our leaders and workers," Ms. Bhutto said.

"Instead of focussing on developmental progress, the government is counting on politics of vengeance and revenge," she said, adding she feared "fake" cases could be initiated against her and her jailed husband Asif Ali Zardari.

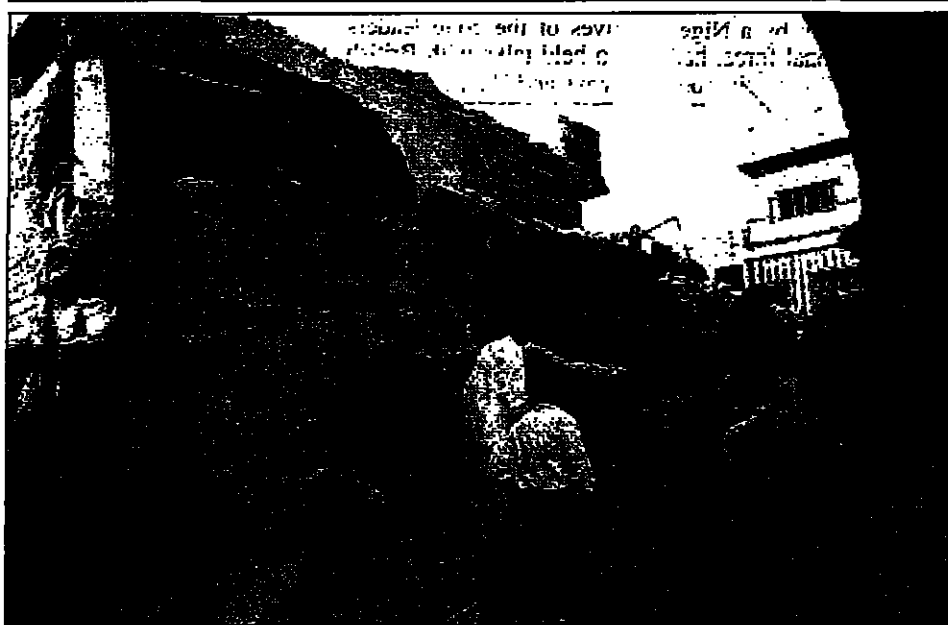
Mr. Suhurwardy, the party's provincial information secretary, was stopped by Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) officials, who said they were acting on orders from higher authorities.

But the officials said they did not know if Mr. Suhurwardy was wanted in connection with court cases involving members of Ms. Bhutto's former government.

Ms. Bhutto's government was dismissed by President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari on charges of corruption and misuse in November.

The former prime minister is scheduled to deliver lectures at Italian universities and speeches at functions organised by non-governmental organisations during her visit. On a previous trip abroad last month, Ms. Bhutto delivered a series of lectures at universities in the United States.

On that occasion, officials prevented her political secretary Naheed Khan from boarding her flight, saying she was involved in recruiting party supporters among Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) staff.



People examine wrecked houses following an explosion in the Pakistani port city of Karachi Saturday. At least two people were killed and another 20 injured in the explosion (Reuters photo).

Police say Karachi blast caused by fireworks material

KARACHI (AFP) — Pakistani investigators Sunday said a powerful explosion which rocked a poor district of this port city, killing two people and injuring 20 others, was caused by a store of fireworks material.

"No evidence is available which could suggest it was a bomb blast or an act of sabotage," city Police Chief Malik Iqbal told AFP.

The explosion, which occurred in a two-storey building Saturday in eastern Karachi's Malir district, was caused by explosive material stored there for manufacturing fireworks, police and bomb disposal officers said.

"We found the evidence of presence of explosive material from the building, which was being used for firecracker manufacturing," Mr. Iqbal added.

Building owner Mohammad Anwar was a fireworks manufacturer, police said.

He and his son were killed in the blast, according to witnesses.

The injured, including women and children, were hospitalised with fractured bones and cuts. Doctors said some of them were in critical condition.

Police said they found a "huge quantity" of packing material for firecrackers as the injured were rescued by volunteers, police and paramilitary troops.

Several nearby houses collapsed or sustained serious damage in the blast.

"The impact was intense, which indicates the presence of huge quantity of explosive material in the building," bomb disposal Chief Moeenuddin said.

The manufacture of fireworks in residential areas is banned but officials said the business continued in several poor districts of Karachi.

Residents said the blast caused alarm in some parts of the city, which has frequently witnessed political, ethnic and religious violence in the past.

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N. Ireland policeman beaten to death by mob

BELFAST (R) — An off-duty Northern Ireland policeman was beaten to death overnight, apparently by a Protestant mob, as security forces continued their probe into an aborted IRA attack in West Belfast.

The policeman was beaten to death in a street attack in the town of Ballymoney in County Antrim. Television reports said at least seven pro-British "loyalists," angered by a recent ban on a Protestant march, set on the 43-year-old officer outside a bar in the early hours of Sunday morning.

A Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) spokesman declined to comment on who was responsible, but said the officer "died from injuries received when he was violently assaulted."

Protestant hardliners have been infuriated over recent months at being prevented from holding marches in the County Antrim village of Dunloy because of objections by its mainly Roman Catholic Irish nationalist residents.

In West Belfast security forces found a bomb detonation wire as they investigated an IRA claim that it had abandoned a defused landmine in West Belfast, police said.

An Irish Republican Army (IRA) statement hinted that one of its units had aborted a planned attack on security forces Saturday and left the landmine in a van in the Poleglass district, a staunch Irish nationalist area.

It was the IRA's first reported hostile action in the province for six weeks, during which Britain has resumed contacts broken off 16 months ago with their political wing.

Protestant politicians immediately called for the tentative talks to be abandoned.

The car was set on fire overnight following the IRA's claim made in a coded telephone call to a local radio station.

Children told journalists they had played inside the suspiciously parked vehicle before the fire and that it contained two containers of white powder.

Police said a security operation was continuing but there was no early sign that they had found any other bomb parts. "The area has been sealed off. A full clearance operation has begun," the RUC spokesman said. "A command wire has been found and a (precautionary) controlled explosion has been carried out."

The IRA, which has frequently left bombs in nationalist zones to catch passing British patrols, said it dumped the bomb after defusing it because civilians were nearby.

Security sources, unsure whether it was a hoax to lure them into a booby trap, said they were treating the alert as a "real terrorist threat."

Britain ended contacts with the IRA's political arm Sinn Féin in February 1996 when the guerrillas scrapped a 17-month ceasefire by setting off a huge bomb in the Docklands area of London's East End, killing two people.

After winning power on May 1, Prime Minister Tony Blair resumed talks between government officials and Sinn Féin.

But Mr. Blair made clear the talks could only take place if the IRA refrained from using violence. Two rounds of talks have been held in the past 10 days and another is due soon.

Golkar strengthens victory in Indonesian elections

JAKARTA (AFP) — Indonesia's ruling Golkar Party Sunday strengthened its lead in the legislative elections gaining 74.3 per cent of the country's counted ballots, well over its target of 70 per cent.

By 2:02 p.m. (0702 GMT) Golkar had taken 81,976,423 of the 110,339,185 votes counted, according to the National Elections Institute.

Golkar's latest figures represent 74.3 per cent of the votes counted but 65.7 per cent of the registered number of voters. So far the votes of 88.5 per cent of the 124,740,987 registered voters have been counted.

Golkar led the Muslim-led United Development Party (PPP) trailing with 24,998,187 votes or 22.65 per cent and the badly split Indonesian Democracy Party (PDI) with 3,364,575 votes, or only 3.05 per cent of the vote counted.

The ruling party, which has decisively won every election held under President Suharto since 1971, had set a target of 70.02 per cent of the vote, up from 68.1 per cent at the last election in 1992.

Its largest win was in 1987, with 73.17 per cent of the 85.8 million votes counted.

In 1992, the PDI won 15 per cent of the votes and the PPP 17 per cent. The PDI, which made a spectacular breakthrough at the last election, has been badly split since its leader Megawati Sukarnoputri was ousted and replaced by a government-backed rival, Suryadi.

Ms. Megawati, who was barred from standing in the election, said she would not vote and urged supporters not to give votes to the party she once led.

In the capital, where the PPP has strong support, Golkar strengthened its lead with votes from expatriates abroad, which under the regulations are included in Jakarta's results.

The state-run Antara news agency has been reporting overwhelming Golkar wins at Indonesian missions abroad. Golkar was ahead with 3,117,651 votes in the capital, the PPP had 2,123, 981 votes, while PDI was a distant third with 105,119 votes.

The ruling party scored its largest single victory in densely populated West Java where it obtained 16,582,061 votes or 72.1 per cent of the 90.4 per cent of vote returns there. PPP was second with 6,018,193 votes or 26.2 per cent of the counted vote in that province while PDI was left far behind with a mere 396,083 votes.

In East Java province, Golkar led with 12,443,925 votes, while the PPP had 6,654,166 and the PDI 628,383 votes, the largest number of votes it has gathered in a single province so far.

In Central Java province, which was hit by election violence during the campaign, Golkar took 11,669,796 votes compared to the PPP's 4,954,606 and the PDI's 468,425.

In the overwhelmingly Roman Catholic territory of East Timor, which also saw poll day violence, Golkar took 308,857 votes, the PDI 51,111 votes and the PPP 8,034 votes.

Mixed confidence, doubt as Hong Kong counts down to June 30

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong entered its final month under British rule Sunday, spurred by a confidence vote from the money markets but still saddled with questions about future freedom under China's red flag.

Business morale in the territory of 6.4 million is at an all time high as Hong Kong counts down to a midnight ceremony on June 30, ending 156 years of colonialism.

Signs of unease about life under Communist-ruled China could emerge with week-long demonstrations, starting Sunday, to honour victims of Beijing's 1989 Tiananmen crackdown on pro-democracy student protesters.

They could be the last seen here as some Democrats say China in future will refuse to tolerate such commemorations.

The territory wrested by military force and "unequal treaties" from the old celestial kingdom, will become a special administrative region, retaining a capitalist way of life, of the People's Republic of China.

Hong Kong's stock exchange Hang Seng Index of blue chip shares gained 341-points Friday to notch a fresh record close of 14,757.81. Turnover was the second highest ever at 18.74 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$2.42 billion).

"There is no doubt that sentiment is pretty strong heading into the handover," Howard Gorges, vice-chairman of South China Holdings, said. "It is beginning to look as though 15,000 to 16,000 is the target range for the handover."

The Hong Kong government also unveiled impressive economic figures that day to demonstrate high consumer confidence.

But doubts remain whether Hong Kong can keep its freedom as promised by Beijing under the 1984 Sino-British treaty which set out the framework for the territory's return to China.

Britain and China are still wrangling about the handover. A final bargaining round of diplomatic talks last week settled details of the ceremony itself, but failed to reach substantial agreement on crucial issues. "All they really managed to settle in this round of talks was the colour of the decorations for the handover," one analyst said.

Future Hong Kong leader Tung Chee-hwa has unveiled plans inspired by China to curb civil and political liberties, and scrap the British-style election laws, while a China-appointed Provisional Legislature will replace the currently elected council upon the handover.

Pro-democracy activists planning a week of demonstrations were told by Mr. Tung last week to forget mourning those killed when Beijing's tanks crushed the student-led Tiananmen Square reform protest.

The latest anniversary of the military crackdown which killed hundreds on June 4, 1989 was expected to draw thousands in a protest march later in the day.

And organisers say Wednesday hundreds of thousands will fill the territory's Victoria Park for a candlelit vigil.

More diplomatic haggling with some progress marked the last session of the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group Friday.

On Sunday, thousands of Christians are expected to take part in a special mass to pray for Hong Kong's future and stability.

Britain disbanded its shortest-lived peacetime regiment, the Hong Kong Logistic Support Regiment, which is dubbed as the 1,000 days regiment, Saturday.

Last Friday, China sent another 90 soldiers to the colony, nearly doubling its troops already in Hong Kong, to prepare for the July 1 changeover.

The business community plans to splash out on a multi-million dollar display of fireworks, lasers and illuminated barges in Hong Kong's Victoria Harbour to mark the first day of Chinese rule.

Other proposed changes were state funding for election campaigns and greater access by candidates to the mass media.

More than 10,000 students went on the rampage Saturday.

Some of the fiercest clashes occurred outside the Luxury Shilla Hotel, a favourite for visiting heads of state.

Tourist buses and limousines dodged rock-throwing students to get in and out, and had to ferry terrified passengers at high speed across sheets of fire set by petrol bombs.

Full casualty details were not immediately available, but news photographs Saturday dramatically captured a student with his clothes ablaze from a fire bomb hurled back at student lines by a police officer.

Media reports said another student was in critical condition after suffering a heart attack during Friday's protests.

South Korean students battle police, demand Kim resign

SEOUL (R) — South Korean students hurling rocks and firebombs fought riot police for a third straight day Sunday in street protests to demand President Kim Young-Sam resign over his refusal to reveal his campaign funding.

More than 3,000 students streamed towards Seoul's Hanyang University where riot police, backed by armoured teargas launchers, fired volleys of stinging teargas to disperse them, witnesses said.

Protesters fought back with firebombs and steel pipes.

The riot was led by an outlawed leftist body, which the government brands a threat to National Security as a stooge of rival North Korea.

The three days of student violence, the worst in almost a year, has left large sections of Seoul littered with spent tear gas canisters and rubble.

Earlier, students attempted to convene at City Hall

but were turned back by a mass of riot police who cordoned off roads.

Witnesses said hundreds of students yelled, "bring down Kim Young-Sam" and "reveal the election funds."

Questions about the 1992 elections have surfaced in the final year of Mr. Kim's presidency in the wake of a bribery scandal involving loans to bankrupt Hanbo Steel that has shattered Mr. Kim's credibility and led to the arrest of his son.

Opposition parties allege Mr. Kim massively over-spent and are insisting he come clean.

But in a nationally televised speech last Friday, Mr. Kim gave no figures, conceding only that his campaign used up "enormous sums" — like those of his rivals.

He proposed a drastic overhaul of laws to prevent a recurrence, including a ban on mass rallies and private political machines, which guzzle political funds.

Jones' lawyer outlines conditions for Clinton case settlement

WASHINGTON (R) — A lawyer representing Paula Jones in her sexual harassment case against President Bill Clinton has set three conditions — including a presidential apology — for settling the case out of court.

Joseph Cammarata, one of two lawyers representing the former Arkansas state worker, said any settlement offer would need to include "some sort of an apology," an affirmation of the truthfulness of Ms. Jones' account of what happened

between her and the president and a statement exonerating her of any wrongdoing.

"Those are some minimal requirements that if those are not presented, this thing is dead in the water," Mr. Cammarata told CNN's Inside Politics Weekend.

He also said he and Ms. Jones' other lawyer, Gil Davis, would recommend rejecting any settlement offer that did not include some financial remuneration for "the three years of hell that Paula Jones has

been put through, the humiliation, the embarrassment, having her name just dragged through the mud."

Ms. Jones won a victory this week when the Supreme Court unanimously rejected Mr. Clinton's appeal to have her suit delayed until after he leaves office.

She alleged that then-Arkansas Gov. Clinton made sexual advances to her in a Little Rock hotel in 1991, including exposing himself to her and asking her to perform oral sex.

Mr. Clinton denies the allegations.

The Supreme Court made no ruling on the merits of her case, but said it should be allowed to proceed.

Mr. Clinton's private attorney Robert Bennett was not immediately available to comment on Mr. Cammarata's conditions, but Friday he called Ms. Jones' allegations "malicious, baseless and politically inspired."

Mr. Bennett also ruled out any settlement that involved Mr. Clinton paying money to Ms. Jones or "acknowledging things that are simply not true."

Ms. Jones contends that she took the legal action to clear her name after American Spectator published an article claiming that Arkansas state policemen set up sexual liaisons for Mr. Clinton. One of the women in the article was identified by the name "Paula." Ms. Jones alleged this tied her to the case.

Mr. Cammarata declined to give more specific details of an acceptable settlement offer, saying it was up to the president's lawyers to make an offer if they felt it was appropriate.

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Annan and Kabila to meet in Harare

KINSHASA (AFP) — Laurent Kabila, president of the Democratic Republic of Congo, will meet United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan at the Organisation of African Unity Summit in Harare this week, a U.N. source said.

The source gave no details of the meeting, but it was likely that the problem of Rwandan Hutu refugees in the east of the former Zaire would be raised.

Mr. Kabila's government hit out at the weekend at what it called a "campaign of intimidation orchestrated within the Security Council" in an official statement issued after its first cabinet meeting.

The statement denied accusations of "so-called obstacles put in the way of humanitarian organisations by the government" and "so-called massacres of refugees."

The Security Council Thursday called for a peaceful transition in the Congo following the May 17 ousting of dictator Mobutu Sese Seko and demanded an immediate end to violence against Rwandan refugees in the country.

The Council reiterated "in the strongest terms its call for complete cooperation" with a U.N. investigative mission which has been denied access to eastern Congo where massacres are reported to have taken place.

The Council "is particularly concerned by reports that refugees in the east of the country are being systematically killed. It calls for an immediate end to the violence against refugees in the country."

The Congolese government communique called the allegations slanderous and "pure invention imagined by those who failed to prevent the fall of the dictatorial regime" of Mr. Mobutu.

Questioned by AFP, government spokesman Raphael Genda accused the Security Council of having been manipulated by certain countries which he declined to name.

The Security Council statement was issued after Mr. Kabila was sworn in Thursday as president, having banned political activities and taken on quasi-total powers but pledged to hold elections in April 1999.

The statement called for "rapid agreement on peaceful transitional arrangements leading to the holding of democratic and free elections with the participation of all parties."

Western diplomats argued that it was important to send a message from the Council recalling principles and stressing the importance of human rights before the organisation of African Unity Summit opens in Harare Monday.

Failure to agree a statement would have played up the divisions in the Council, one diplomat said.

Another diplomat warned that a lack of council reaction could have given Mr. Kabila "grounds for triumphalism."

Meanwhile, Togo, which was forced to play host to Mr. Mobutu and his huge entourage when they were run out of Zaire, has become the latest to recognise that country's new name and government.

A statement Friday from Togolese Foreign Minister Koffi Panou said the government of President Gnassingbe Eyadema would join most of Africa and the world in referring to Zaire as Congo and in recognising Mr. Kabila as the new president.

Mr. Mobutu, 66 and dying of prostate cancer, fled to Lome, the capital of his friend and ally Mr. Eyadema, on May 18. Mr. Mobutu's son, Kongulu, and another 100 family members arrived in Togo the next day on a commercial flight after Gabon turned away a jet carrying the ostracised family.

Despite being a friend and political ally of Mr. Mobutu for decades, Mr. Eyadema soon became impatient with his unexpected guests.

Taleban fly in reinforcements, bomb north

KABUL (AFP) — Thousands of Taleban fighters were flown out of their base in Kandahar heading for the frontlines Sunday as fighting raged in northern Afghanistan where the hardline militia claimed to be repulsing an opposition offensive in Samangan province.

In their bid to regain control of Mazar-i-Sharif, Taleban jets bombed the northern Afghan capital for the second day running but de-tails of the air strikes reported by Afghan sources were not immediately available.

An AFP correspondent in the Taleban headquarters in Kandahar said transport planes carrying fresh Taleban troops flew out Sunday to Kabul on their way to northwestern Badghis province.

From Badghis, the Taleban reinforcements will be sent to nearby northern provinces seized by rival forces as the Taleban retreated from Mazar-i-Sharif, four days after entering the city, officials said.

Kandahar Sunday looked like a battle headquarters. It was thronged with thousands of Taleban who arrived from religious schools in Pakistan following a call from supreme leader Mullah Mohammad Omar to join their comrades in crushing the opposition "forces of evil," witnesses said.

Officials said the response was "enthusiastic." Since the call, up to 2,000 people have poured into Kandahar daily from different Pakistani and Afghan cities.

Other than fighting, Abdul Hayee Motmaen, in charge of Kandahar Radio told AFP.

He said Mr. Omar in view of the massive arrivals is issued a fresh directive Sunday, ordering newcomers to be properly vetted.

They must bring a letter from the imam (priest) of their mosque or madrasa, religious school, to prove they are genuine Taleban or committed supporters of the Islamic militia, Mr. Motmaen said.

Officials were hopeful the reinforcements would boost the Taleban's position in the beleaguered regions.

The Taleban-run Radio Shariat said Sunday the Islamic militia had repulsed an offensive in northern Samangan province, inflicting heavy losses on opposition forces.

The attacking troops left behind dozens of dead," it said, adding at least 36 rival fighters were captured by the "soldiers of Islam."

It said the "defeated militia and elements of evil and corruption launched an unsuccessful attack" against Taleban positions in Samangan province Sunday.

No independent confirmation was immediately available.

The forces of General Abdul Malik, former commander of ousted warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum, forced the Taleban out of Mazar-i-Sharif Wednesday, four days after inviting the Islamic militia into the town. Gen. Dostum's former stronghold.

The religious militia subsequently suffered a series of reversals in other northern provinces as the forces of ex-Defence Minister Masood increased pressure on strategic Salang Highway, linking Kabul with the north.

Mr. Masood's men, positioned on hills overlooking the main road, captured a key highway town of Jabul Siraj Friday and fighting for control of it continued Saturday.

The Taleban, who captured Kabul eight months ago, crossed the Salang Pass, 120 kilometres north of here, Wednesday after an opposition commander joined them.

Radio Shariat also claimed that hundreds of volunteers were pouring into the Afghan capital from southern, eastern and western provinces.

U.S. resumes Sierra Leone evacuation

FREETOWN (R) — U.S. Marines returned to Sierra Leone in four helicopters Sunday to evacuate remaining Westerners desperate to escape the violence triggered by a coup in Freetown.

The four CH-46 Sea Knight helicopters from the U.S. helicopter carrier Kearsarge landed in the grounds of a hotel where hundreds of foreigners had sought the protection of Nigerian troops.

Diplomats said Saturday the Marines, who had evacuated about 900 foreigners already, including all Americans, would return to ferry remaining Europeans out of the country.

As the Marines arrived, hundreds of Africans of various nationalities looked on, also desperate to leave. Widespread looting and violence had erupted after the week-old coup.

Diplomatic sources said Sierra Leone's military coup leaders, facing the threat of attack by a Nigerian-led regional force, had intensified diplomatic contacts to seek a way out of the crisis.

Talks took place Saturday as military sources reported a contingent of Guinean troops entered Sierra Leone to join the Nigerian-led regional force gearing up to reverse the coup by junior officers in Freetown.

"They sent a delegation which met the Nigerian ambassador. Basically they wanted assurances of safe conduct outside the country and possible asylum," said a source close to the talks.

Representatives of the coup leaders who met Ambassador Chidi Abubakar at his residence included the number two in the new Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC), Captain Paul Thomas.

"The ambassador told them Nigeria would consider their request but could not speak for other countries on the issue of asylum," the source said.

Diplomats said representatives of the coup leaders also held talks with British envoys and U.N. officials.

Israel says it has evidence...

(Continued from page 1)

there is a finger of an Israeli in this assassination."

Earlier on Sunday, a Palestinian newspaper editor said a previously unknown Palestinian group had claimed responsibility for killing Jumhour on Saturday.

An anonymous caller, speaking Arabic, told the Palestinian daily Al Hayat Al Jadidah newspaper that the Keepers of the Holy Land group shot Jumhour near Ramallah, a village still under Israeli occupation.

Bashit was killed in Al Treh village, also in the Ramallah area, on Saturday because of his dealings.

"The caller said his group. Keepers of the Holy Land, shot Jumhour dead because he sold land to Jews," Hafez Barghouti, the newspaper's editor-in-chief, told Reuters. He said the caller had also contacted PNA police and other local newspapers.

Jumhour and another land dealer, 60-year-old Harbi Abu Sarah, were killed in Rafat near Ramallah, a village still under Israeli occupation.

Bashit was killed in Al Treh village, also in the Ramallah area, on Saturday because of his dealings.

Mr. Abu Medeen said the PNA had activated a Jordanian military law that once prohibited the sale of land to Jews. The new law followed a crisis in PNA-Israeli peace moves over the start of construction of a Jewish settlement in Arab east Jerusalem in March.

"It's a law. Those suspected of selling land will be questioned, interrogated, and then according to the law, the judge will decide maybe to confiscate their property, maybe to sentence them to life imprisonment or maybe the penalty will reach the death penalty," Mr. Abu Medeen said.

Last week, Mr. Abu Medeen said the PNA was interrogating up to 12 Palestinians suspected of selling land to Israelis. The PNA said the ban is needed to curb Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including east Jerusalem, that could strengthen Israeli claims to sovereignty.

Washington and an international human rights group have urged Mr. Arafat to forbid retribution against land dealers.

(Continued from page 1)

A few hours earlier guerrillas from the Iranian-backed fundamentalist group attacked four positions of the Israeli army and its proxy south Lebanon Army (SLA) militia in the occupied border strip.

Hezbollah said in a statement in Beirut it "caused victims in enemy ranks" while the SLA said there were no casualties.

An Israeli army spokesman in Jerusalem confirmed the air raids, saying the missiles had destroyed their intended targets.

He added that Israeli soldiers patrolling the buffer strip had arrested three Lebanese men on Sunday suspected of taking part in Hezbollah attacks against Israeli forces.

The three were arrested in the village of Arnun said the spokesman, adding that other Lebanese villagers arrested during the operation were released after questioning.

However, Lebanese police said the Israeli army arrested seven civilians after setting up a road block between Arnun and Yohmor outside the occupied zone.

"At around 2:00 p.m. Israeli soldiers stopped three civilian cars and carried out an identity check on the nine passengers. They then returned to the zone taking seven people with them," a police officer told AFP.

Hezbollah, which killed an Israeli officer in a mortar attack Friday, spearheads guerrilla attacks on the south Lebanon "security zone" occupied by Israeli since 1985.

After meeting Mr. Netanyahu on Thursday, Mr. Baz hailed the "positive atmosphere" of the talks but could not report any progress in bringing the two sides back to the negotiating table.

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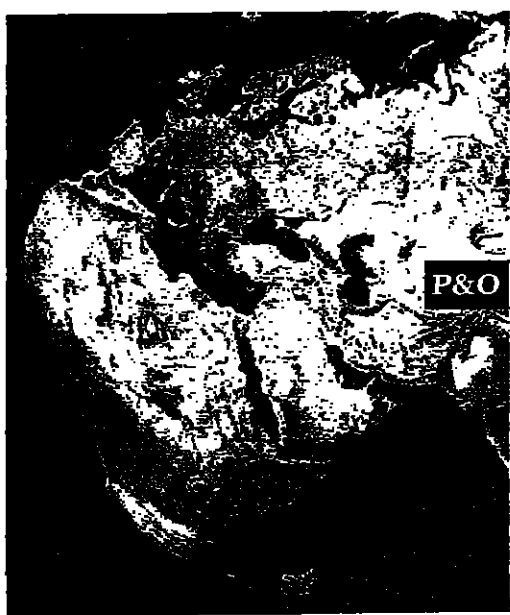
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18 - 19 / 05	25 - 26 / 05	01 - 02 / 06
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22 - 23 / 05	29 - 30 / 05	05 - 06 / 06
28 - 29 / 05	04 - 05 / 06	11 - 12 / 06
31 - 01 / 06	07 - 08 / 06	14 - 15 / 06
02 - 03 / 06	09 - 10 / 06	16 - 17 / 06

وكالة البحر الأحمر للملاحة

تلفون ١٠٢٧٠٢ (خط ٣) تكس ٣٣١٢١٢١ فاكس ٣٣١٢٢١٢١ (٠٦)

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Jordan Times

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No honour in killing

SHOULD A brother who kills his sister in the name of honour get only a three-month jail sentence? That is exactly what happened last week when the Criminal Court sentenced Samir Farid who murdered his sister Samira in cold blood in the name of honour. The punishment of the murderer was commuted because he committed the heinous crime to "cleanse his family's honour," and because the family of the victim, in this case the killer's family, has dropped charges against him. In other words, the family of a victim can literally "pardon" the killer or commute his punishment significantly if they so wish. But what about public interest and preventive punishment?

Such crimes cannot go on unabated, when we profess that we live in a country governed by law. It puzzles and disturbs most Jordanians that the law should be written in a manner that by virtue of its lenient provisions aids and abets the commission of honour crimes by rendering insignificant sentences against perpetrators. That shows that there is something terribly wrong with our laws and the administration of justice in our country. With all our commitment to the fulfillment of human rights, we fail to understand how and why sisters, daughters and wives could be slaughtered with near impunity.

All Jordanians support and defend honour in all its forms. But honour should not be pursued at the expense of the lives of women especially when they are often innocent of the accusations levelled against them.

Meanwhile, there have been more reports of child abuse in recent years. More than a year ago a father poisoned his children. This week a father burned his 12-year-old son for disturbing his sleep. Sexual abuse of children, girls and women is also creeping into our midst at an accelerating pace. While the country continues to be engaged in matters of security, stability, economic development and domestic and external problems, issues of crime and justice are not being accorded the attention they deserve. The government should start taking this subject more seriously and commence an effective educational and legislative campaign to address it. If it was possible for the government to pass a temporary law curtailing freedom of expression, despite widespread opposition, it surely can pass a new legislation placing tougher penalties in crimes committed within the family.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Dustour Sunday commented on Egypt's current role as mediator between the Palestinians and Israel, by saying that Cairo finds itself forced to play this role in order to salvage the peace process. Oreib Rintawi said that Egypt has been accused by the Israelis and the Americans of doing very little to save the peace process from collapse and so it is sending envoys now to talk to the Israeli and the Palestinian leaderships. He said that Egypt is concerned with the current deadlock in the peace process because of the consequences of such a deadlock on its internal situation and concerned with its own position as a leader of the Arab Nation. Furthermore, Egypt feels that in the event of failure and total collapse of the peace process it will be facing confrontation with Israel and the United States, which supplies it with financial aid which Cairo is careful not to lose, said the writer. He said that in light of continued Israeli intransigence, it is feared that the Egyptians will exercise pressure on the Palestinians to give in to Israel's terms for a settlement.

FAHEH FANEK, a writer for Al Ra'i, Sunday demanded that Minister of Water and Irrigation Munther Haddadin provide the Jordanians with details about the source of water which has started flowing into Jordan from Israel. At last week's ceremony, marking the start of pumping water towards Jordan, Dr. Haddadin did not provide the required details about the source of the water — whether it is from Lake Tiberias or the Yarmouk River or whether this water is fresh or recycled or in need of purification to become potable, said the writer. Under the provisions of the peace treaty, Israel should have supplied Jordan with 50 million cubic metres of water annually, but the Israelis have violated the treaty and defaulted, only recently consenting to supply 30 mcm. for the time being, recalled the writer. He said that Dr. Haddadin, who voiced appreciation of Israel's consent to supply Jordan with water, should provide the public with accurate information about the actual water situation which, he said, is the bone of contention between Israel and Jordan.

Economic Review

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur

Spending on research and development, and how

JORDAN, AS a result of the economic adjustment process, seems to have done really well in reducing the fiscal deficit and the inflation rate, which declined substantially. However, Jordan's achievements pale next to the miraculous recovery of the U.S. economy and the resultant reduction in the unemployment rate.

Without attempting a comparison, and without attempting to suggest a graft of what worked for the U.S. onto Jordan, a question that begs to be asked is: Can some similar strategy or approach work for the Jordanian economy?

During 1972-1994, central government expenditures averaged about 43 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP), with military and capital spending ranking high in the budget. However, with the International Monetary Fund-sponsored adjustment programme, the fiscal deficit was cut from 18 per cent of the GDP in 1988 to 4.6 per cent of the GDP in 1996. Two thirds of the improvement were due to expenditure cuts while the rest was due to revenue increase. Furthermore, external debt, which stood at 190 per cent of the GDP in 1989, fell sharply to 91 per cent of the GDP in 1996.

Additionally, inflation, which stood at 25 per cent in 1989, dropped to under 4 per cent in 1995 and rose to 6.5 per cent in 1996, with the increase in the prices of bread and other food items as a result of changes in the subsidy method. (It is believed that inflation in 1997 will fall to under 4 per cent). However, at 14.1 per cent, unemployment remains a challenge to policy makers.

The U.S. economy, on the other hand, has soared for the past two years, with both unemployment and inflation rates being the envy of the whole world. Inflation in 1996 was 2.6 per cent, down from 3 per cent in 1995, and unemployment fell from 5.7 per cent in 1995 to 4.9 per cent in 1996. Analysts had expected inflation to increase as the unemployment rate dropped, but to the surprise of many it did not, and the U.S. economy is not letting up; more growth is on the horizon. Furthermore, the dollar remains strong and is expected to rise even further —

which is good for the dinar — if the Federal Reserve Bank does not interfere.

How did the U.S. do it? For decades, the U.S. has been improving productivity through computerisation and the utilisation of information technology. These investments paid off as efficiency improved and organisations were streamlined.

As output increased, the incomes of the productive factors increased, causing further expansion. Spurts of low unemployment wages dropped slightly, thus keeping inflationary pressures down, and as of May 7, 1997, there seemed to be no sign of an increase in inflation.

These numbers become doubly impressive if one remembers that they come after a six-year growth period. Where is the business cycle? The cycle has lengthened as information technology, which keeps improving at a fast rate, is creating new dimensions in development economies.

Can Jordan benefit from the U.S. experience? The answer is affirmative. More expenditure is needed on information technologies — especially computer networks — and telecommunications infrastructure. (Incidentally, the U.S. has the most privatised telecommunications market in the world, and the most advanced). Since 1995, the rate of spending on information technology in the U.S. was double that of the rate of spending on other capital equipment. Networks allowed managers to streamline operations, creating new management and marketing methods.

Jordan has the ability to use computer networks and to create new, more efficient information and management systems. However, as a first step, a speedy privatisation of the main telecommunications provider is in order. This will enhance spending on research and development and provide competition in information technologies. No delay should be allowed in the introduction of competition in the basic telephony market. The growth of Jordan and its recovery may depend on the simple act of privatisation.

'Sleight of hand — reining in Israel and its moles in the U.S. without pressing formal charges'

By Donald Neff

WASHINGTON DC —

The Washington Post reported on May 7 that the FBI was investigating whether a senior U.S. government official had been passing highly sensitive information to Israel. The probe began in January after the National Security Agency (NSA), the intelligence community's electronic ears around the world, intercepted a supposedly secure communication between an Israeli intelligence officer in Washington and his superior at Mossad headquarters in Tel Aviv.

The Israeli in Washington told his superior that the Israeli ambassador to the United States, Eliahu Ben Elissar, had asked him whether he could obtain a copy of a letter given on Jan. 15 by Secretary of State Warren Christopher to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. The intelligence agent said: "The ambassador wants me to go to Mega to get a copy of this letter."

Tantalisingly, the superior in Tel Aviv responded: "This is not something we use Mega for." The implication is that "Mega" was so high and in such a sensitive post that he or she would be approached on only the most vital matter. The Post reported that U.S. officials "said that the context of the conversation led them to believe that Mega may be someone in the U.S. government who has provided information to the Israelis in the past."

The NSA transcript was routinely sent to the CIA's counter-intelligence centre, the State Department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security and Intelligence and Research, and the FBI's Division 5, which is in charge of foreign counter-intelligence in America. FBI concern about the sensitivity of the material and its wide distribution caused the NSA to recall it from other agencies within twelve hours. A source said: "It was taken off the street."

U.S. officials refused to

comment publicly on the Post report, but Israel and Ben Elissar denied any wrongdoing. With Ben Elissar saying: "I deny it as strongly as one can deny anything."

Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy implausibly asserted: "Our diplomats all over the world, and of course specifically in the United States, don't deal with such a thing. They have clear instructions. Israel, in general, does not deal with such a thing."

The next day unnamed U.S. officials admitted there was an investigation under way, but again they had no public comment. However, one anonymous official "suggested" to The New York Times that no suspect had been identified, pointing out that "maybe it's not a person, but a code name for an organisation or a method." In other words, the Times deflated the Post story by putting into question whether Mega was even a person. Perhaps it was just media rivalry. But the Times' account had the effect of what reporters call pissing on the story and thereby discrediting it. Whatever, the story quickly disappeared from the media.

"The essential point is to avoid seriously angering Israel's American supporters, who are so influential in Congress so generous to political parties."

The letter in question was delivered the day of the accord on Israel's withdrawal from four fifths of Hebron. It contained U.S. positions on the accord, especially Israel's commitment to withdraw from rural areas of the West Bank in three six-monthly stages. At the time, special envoy Dennis Ross said the letter did not contain "guarantees as such" but

spelled out areas of U.S. policy embodying "not only our views, but our willingness to act in accordance with our views."

In reality, the flap may say as much about the disarray of Israeli diplomacy at it does about Israeli spying on America, which is hardly new. Israeli filching of U.S. secrets has been going on at least since the Truman administration, half a century ago. By the 1960s, the director of central intelligence, Richard Helms, was convinced that there was no U.S. secret affecting Israel that the latter state did not know.

The depth of Israeli spying was revealed by the massive thefts of secrets for Israel by Jonathan Jay Pollard, who was caught in 1985 and is still serving a life sentence. Pollard's arrest and conviction was a rare case where the U.S. actually punished Israel for spying, but then Pollard's activities had been of unprecedented magnitude and harm to U.S. interests.

In the current case, the potential injury seems considerably less devastating. The fact is that the letter was read by Ross to

ment, the Palestinians will be able to turn to Washington with this promissory note."

Sleight of hand

Netanyahu already knew that. But presumably Ben Elissar did not. Given the distrustful relations between Netanyahu and the Foreign Ministry and his chilly personal relations with Ambassador Ben Elissar, it seems possible that Netanyahu simply did not inform the Foreign Ministry of the letter's contents. That means Ben Elissar, stewing in Washington, would have sought to get the letter in the two-week interval between Ross giving it to Arafat and Haaretz publishing it.

Thus, in terms of a time line, the NSA had a transcript of the Mossad conversation some time in the last half of January and the FBI began investigating within days. Sources told the Post that the probe had been going on since January. The interesting point is that the FBI has taken such a long time failing to find any suspect among the very few who have access to such highly restricted diplomatic communications. It sounds like the fix is in and no one will ever be charged.

Pollard aside, this sort of sleight of hand is Washington's way of delicately handling matters involving Israeli matters involving Israeli transgressions. The incident is eventually buried — but at the same time its public airing sends a warning shot across the bows of Israel and its U.S. moles. The technique is to anonymously leak a story to the press and then let it fade away by just as anonymously discrediting it. The explanation: it is a way to rein in Israel and its moles in America without actually pressing formal charges.

The essential point is to avoid seriously angering Israel's American supporters, who are so influential in Congress so generous to political parties.

Middle East International

Human Rights File

Responsible and irresponsible journalism — a thin line that no party can arbitrarily draw

By Waleed M. Sadi

THE FIRST Amendment to the Constitution of the United States stipulates that Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech or the press. It provides the basis for the U.S. tradition for free press.

The impact of this amendment on the U.S. thinking or free press was reflected in Thomas Jefferson's comment that "if it were to me to decide whether we should have a government without a free press or a free press without a government, I would prefer the latter."

Such was the extent of the U.S. faith and trust in free press as far back as the early nineteenth century. More recently, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart reaffirmed this article of faith in free press when he stated, in 1974, that the primary purpose of the First Amendment was "to create a fourth institution outside the government to act as an additional check on the three branches of government."

The lack of a ministry of information in Washington to regulate the press and the activities of journalists and the absence of any U.S. federal law requiring that journalists be registered or belong to a union have been universally attributed to the force and effect of this First Amendment.

This U.S. position should give us here, in Jordan, some food for thought as we go on looking for guidance on our own democratic process.

Such constitutional guarantee of the freedom of the press has been repeatedly put to the test, challenged in courts and elsewhere.

The publication of the Pentagon Papers by the New York Times in 1971 was a milestone in the consolidation of the right to free press after the U.S. government took the Times to court to stop the publication of what it termed national secrets.

While Jordan is not the U.S. and each country has its own peculiarities and lives its own circumstances, it is nevertheless pertinent to probe into the thinking and rationale of the U.S. Supreme Court which ruled in favour of free press, and implicitly the New York Times, in that instance.

Perhaps that would help us, Jordanians, become more enlightened regarding this issue and hopefully benefit from the experience of others when we endeavour to articulate new guidelines on the enjoyment of freedom of press.

The Pentagon Papers controversy unfolded when the New York Times obtained a copy of the classified Pentagon papers which contained secret information about the U.S. involvement in Vietnam. The Times decided to publish this information after it became convinced that the Americans were misled about the war. The U.S. attorney general at the time demanded the halt of the publication which he viewed as a violation of the Espionage Act and thus would cause "irreparable injury" to the U.S. national interest.

The U.S. government obtained a court temporary restraining order to

prohibit the Times from continuing the publication of the information. The U.S. Supreme Court became seized with the case and rendered its landmark decision in the case of the New York Times Co. vs. United States in 1971.

And this is what the Supreme Court decided: Any prior restraint on publication "bears a heavy presumption against its constitutional validity." It held that the U.S. government had failed to fulfil its obligation to show a justification for the restraint.

The newspaper won the case and continued therefore with the publication of the secret information. Although this particular case is considered a landmark in the U.S. jurisprudence on the freedom of press, the highest court of the land in fact rested its case on earlier court judgements.

In the famous New York Times Co. vs. Sullivan in 1964, the newspaper was sued by an official in Alabama who claimed that he was defamed by an advertisement published in the Times that alleged that the police in Montgomery, Alabama mistreated non-violent protesters against racial discrimination.

The Supreme Court ruled that even though some of the contents of the advertisement were false, the First Amendment protected the publication of the advertisement on the premise that the national commitment to uninhibited, robust and wide-open debate on public issues precluded interferences unless the complained about contents of the advertisement were made with actual malice, meaning that they were made with knowledge that they were false or with reckless disregard of their veracity.

The court further ruled that attacking the police in general rendered the attack impersonal and could not therefore be regarded as a libel of any particular official. This is not to suggest that free press could be pursued without some responsible restraint. In a market economy, it is the credibility of a newspaper that would assure its profitability or at least its survival. In the marketplace where people will not buy a product that is not trustworthy, newspapers become accountable in ways that hurt most.

The public who buys journalistic products in the marketplace would soon discover that independent journalism is not necessarily synonymous with anti-government reporting.

Accountability can also take other forms. Reasonable constraints are normally accepted under the force of libel and defamation legislation. Public interest or public order are also criteria for attaining free and responsible reporting; but they need to be applied conservatively lest they should become a licence for silencing honest and credible journalism.

The divide between free and responsible journalism and free and irresponsible journalism is indeed a thin line that no party can arbitrarily draw without full and complete analysis. This is where we, in Jordan, may still try to find this elusive line and act accordingly.



The dark side of the Milky Way — galaxy is shown to be spherical not flat

By Charles Arthur

THE MILKY Way galaxy in which we live is not really flat, as people have thought, but roughly spherical, according to new research by British astronomers.

The conventional description is of a disk of stars with two spiral "arms" — with our sun far out in one of them — giving the galaxy a radius of about 10,000 light years. But the new calculations suggest there is a huge sphere of "dark matter" which we cannot see spreading out to a distance of 150,000 light years in a spherical "halo", say Robert Olling and Michael Merrifield of the University of Southampton.

The reason we haven't seen the true shape of our galaxy before is that dark matter is literally invisible: it does not radiate heat or light, and so cannot be detected by telescope. Current theories suggest it may be planet-sized chunks of matter which never reached the critical mass needed to start emitting light, or even minuscule black holes left over from the early stages of the Big Bang 15 billion years ago.

But astronomers have known for more than 20 years that dark matter exists — and constitutes more than 90 per cent of the mass of the universe — because of its gravitational effects on visible objects such as stars and even galaxies.

"Previous estimates about the amount of dark matter always

assumed that it was distributed in a sphere. We have shown that it is," said Dr. Olling. "It is a very satisfying result. I have been struggling with these calculations for nine months."

The latest work calculated the presence and arrangement of dark matter around the Milky Way by observing its effects on a layer of hydrogen gas which is dispersed along the plane of the galaxy with the stars.

Dr. Olling and Dr. Merrifield estimated that the thickness of the hydrogen layer would depend on the arrangement of the dark matter. A lot of dark matter close to the galaxy's plane would pull the layer down, making it thin; but a more diffuse distribution would make the gas layer thicker.

The latest work suggests a huge intergalactic spread of dark matter. However, Dr. Olling said a lot of work remained to be done.

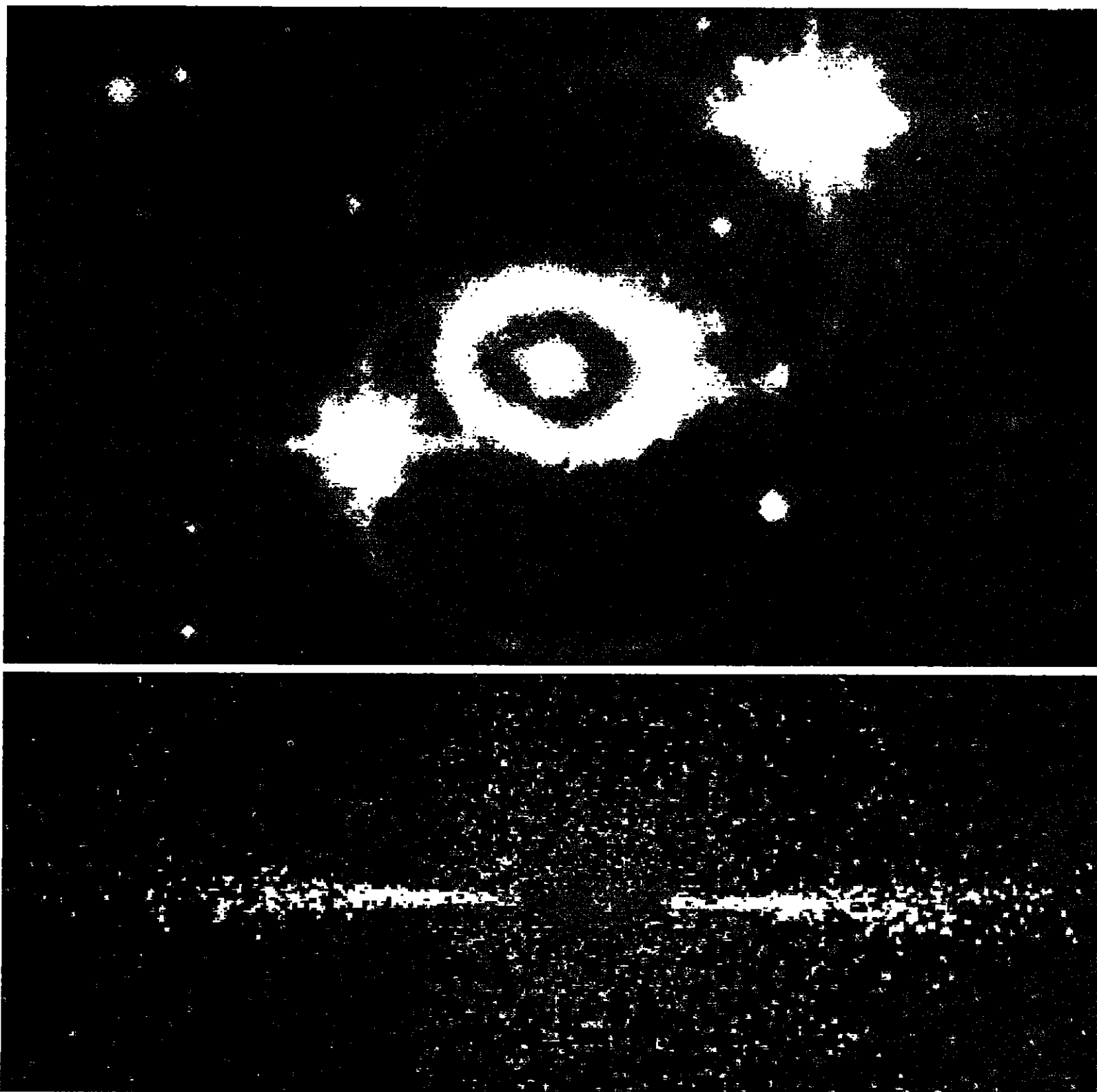
"The Milky Way is particularly problematic to study, because we're standing in the midst of it — that makes it difficult to see the overall perspective. It's not like a distant galaxy where you can see it all. One of the problems we have been struggling with is that we don't know how far away we are from the centre of the galaxy, or how fast it's rotating. We know with 10 per cent accuracy, but that error is enough to make a big difference."

Astronomers at Durham University reckon galaxies formed

from matter in the early universe are full of elementary particles known as "cold dark matter." These then create "embryo galaxies" which collide and merge to form the familiar spiral and elliptical galaxy formations. The theory is based on observations of proto-galaxies which formed when the universe was only about one billion years old — less than a tenth of its present age.

Debris from SN19874, pictured by the Hubble Space Telescope. From Hubble's evidence, astronomers now think that 30,000 years ago two stars combined, creating the nova.

The new view the galaxy revealed by British astronomers



Southeast Asian art buyers look West

By Sonali Desai
Reuters

SINGAPORE — Southeast Asian art buyers are beginning to set their sights beyond regional shores and eye the western art market as rising prosperity dissolves geographic and cultural boundaries.

Although gallery owners and auction houses still describe the level of buying of Western paintings as a trickle rather than a flood, they are upbeat about the prospects for this market given its growth in recent years.

"Southeast Asians are becoming more affluent and well travelled. It's common for them to keep homes in California or New York, so this is a natural progression," said Irene Lee, general manager of Christie's in Singapore.

In March, the London-based auction house held a three-day exhibition in Singapore of selected 19th and 20th century paintings being auctioned in New York this month.

The collection included works by Monet, Picasso and Warhol, with estimated values extending well into seven digits.

"We feel that Singapore offers access to a relatively wide catch basin of potential collectors in Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia," said Michael Findlay, senior director of impressionist and modern art at Christie's in New York.

It was the second time the auction house had included Singapore on a list of four cities worldwide to showcase paintings featured in its biannual sales of impressionist and modern art.

"There was sufficient activity after our October exhibition to warrant our coming back," Mr. Findlay said, declining to provide figures.

Still a virgin market

Bjorn Wetterling, managing director of the Wetterling Teo Gallery and head of the Singapore's Art Galleries Association, cites the Christie's exhibition as proof of the growing market for Western art in the region.

Wetterling's gallery, itself a major dealer of post-war American art, was established in 1994 in partnership with a local businessman and the backing of the Singapore government, to bring international contemporary art to Asia.

"Since I started the gallery, the market has improved a lot, but it's still a virgin market," he said, noting that the bulk of his clients tended to be Singapore-based private collectors.

Part of the difficulty is that while "the brand names" are always easy to collect and recognise, not everybody has heard of a James Rosenquist or a Robert Rauschenberg, Mr. Wetterling said. But the problem of recognition is by no means unique to this part of the world.

If anything, efforts by local galleries, backed by the Singapore government's push to establish the tiny island as a regional centre for the arts, have generated a near constant buzz of activity on the domestic art scene.

The Singapore Art Museum's four-month exhibition of works from the Guggenheim Museum in New York earlier this year attracted about 55,000 visitors.

About a third of these were from outside Singapore, including one 16-year-old student who backpacked from Malaysia and lived on instant noodles for two days just to see the exhibition, a museum spokeswoman said.

She noted, however, that "big name Western" artists are only featured in one of the 10 to 15 shows the museum holds annually.

The often daunting price tags attached to Western paintings and the pull of the familiar ensure that Southeast Asian art remains the main draw in the region.

But events like the Treasures International art fair, held annually in Singapore since 1993, offer the growing base of Asian art collectors a wide array of choices.

"Treasures has been bringing a lot of Western art into Singapore and that has started stirring up people's interest in different collecting fields, from prints to contemporary art to impressionist paintings," said Quek Chin Yeow,

Sotheby's Asia director.

The six-day fine art and antiques fair, held in April, featured about 70 exhibitors and drew nearly 16,000 visitors from around the region.

Sales figures for this year's fair were not yet available, but a spokeswoman for the organisers said last year's sales were estimated at \$20 million.


"I see all types of buyers here — from the \$10,000 buyer to the \$1 million buyer," said Barbara Nino, head of New York based International Art Acquisitions Inc, which saw a steady stream of visitors through its corner booth at Treasures.

"Now that people have bought the home, the car, the jewellery, they're moving towards the arts. It's also a diversification of one's investment portfolio," Ms. Nino said.


Still, buying a work of art need not always be a weighty decision.

Design consultant Chaun Soh, who calls herself a young collector, said her two collector's edition etchings by U.S. artist Enrico Embroli, at \$1,050 apiece, were "impulse buys".

"I don't even consider the potential investment value. I look at a piece and if it stirs something in me, I go with my instincts," Ms. Soh said.



We're treating you to 200 free tickets on the 20th anniversary of our Amman - New York route.



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ROYAL JORDANIAN الخطوط الملكية الأردنية

Reflecting the Change

Tarawneh mobilises foreign ministry and embassies to support national economy

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Fayez Tarawneh Sunday issued a circular to all Jordanian embassies requesting them to provide the necessary facilities to private sector delegations and to facilitate their missions in support of the national economy.

Dr. Tarawneh called on the Jordanian embassies to treat requests by the private sector on an equal footing with those of the public sector.

He urged providing such facilities as hotel reservations, hiring of cars, hosting receptions at their own expense and fixing appointments for them, as well as agreeing with them on a follow-up mechanism on a case by case basis.

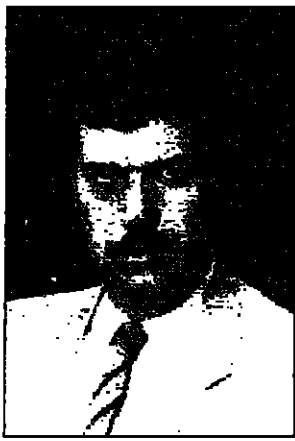
The foreign minister requested the embassies to supply the ministry with reports on each case, so that the ministry can follow up

with the parties concerned. He also called for intensifying contacts with official and non-official parties to explain Jordan's economic plans.

Dr. Tarawneh said the new assignment entrusted to the Jordanian diplomacy requires tremendous efforts from all government ministries, including the foreign ministry and its missions abroad.

He pointed out that the ministry is embarking on the necessary steps to implement this task through improving communication between the ministry and its embassies, as well as the use of Internet and updating of data.

Dr. Tarawneh said the foreign ministry and its missions abroad constitute a major arm for implementing national development objectives in addition to its duties in the political, cultural, con-



Fayez Tarawneh

sular, labour and health spheres. Based on the above, Dr. Tarawneh said the cabinet has decided to involve the foreign minister in the ministerial Development Council, which is a mini economic cabinet, thus making the foreign ministry a part of the national development structure.

Centre paying compensation to returnees

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Returnees Compensation Centre (RCC) last week started distributing compensations to Jordanians who were forced to return to the Kingdom following the 1990-91 Gulf war, the centre's director Yahya Oteibi said Sunday.

Mr. Oteibi said that the distributing of the first instalment totalling \$322,500 for 129 claims from categories A and C, with each returnee receiving \$2,500. The disbursement of funds followed the receiving of the amount from the United Nations Compensation Centre (UNCC) in Geneva.

He pointed out that the UNCC has deducted 30 per cent of the Iraqi oil revenues in line with the oil-for-food deal reached last December.

The deal envisages selling \$2 billion of Iraqi oil in return of humanitarian purchases every six months.

Around \$600 million were deducted from the oil revenues for the first six months and the amount was allocated for several thousands foreigners who were living in Kuwait during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait or were compelled to leave following the emirate's liberation.

At least 350,000 Jordanians were living in Kuwait, but most of them were forced to leave following the liberation of the country.

The UNCC has classified the claims into five categories; A for those who were forced to leave Kuwait, B for deaths and injuries, C for private losses incurred by individuals with less than \$100,000 claim, D for claims above \$100,000 and E for claims of governments and states.

The RCC has completed distributing compensation for claims in category B in 1995 when \$2.2 million were given to 449 claims from returnees in the Kingdom.

Mr. Oteibi told the Jordan Times that the centre expects that the U.N. will approve all claims in category C by the end of this year. He said the second instalment for categories A and C is expected to be distributed by August or September, with claims totalling \$60 million for 19,762 and 4,067 claims for A and C respectively.

He added that only 28 claims were rejected in category C by the UNCC. Category C includes 42,000 claims.

The total claims of

110,000 returnees in Jordan amounts to \$3 billion, Mr. Oteibi said. He added that 1,400 claims for category D are expected to be rejected. He did not give reasons.

Mr. Oteibi said that a team representing the RCC is expected to head for Geneva to discuss several issues relating to the distribution mechanism and the result of claims, especially for categories C and D.

He said that the centre will continue distributing receipts and national numbers for each returnee to facilitate distribution process in Jordan.

REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
	USD	DEM	GBP	JPY	CHF	ITL	FRF	YEN	DM
US Dollar	1.0000	1.7553	0.6100	1.4138	1.1622	1.3808	1.6632	1.9187	5.7581
DE Mark	0.5684	1.0000	0.3574	0.8220	0.6815	0.8094	0.9632	1.1250	3.3758
GB Sterling	1.6383	2.7940	1.0000	2.3148	1.6045	2.2635	2.7702	3.1453	9.4593
CH Franc	0.7973	1.2653	0.4309	1.2164	0.6218	0.9780	1.1439	1.3592	4.0689
JP Yen	0.0068	1.4880	0.0241	1.0000	0.0081	0.0094	0.0114	0.0135	0.0375
CA Dollar	0.7342	1.2327	0.4447	1.0282	0.8119	1.1871	1.4535	1.6862	4.1603
IT Lira	0.0008	1.0000	0.0007	0.0007	0.0008	1.0000	0.0008	0.0008	0.0008
NL Guilder	0.0021	0.0035	0.0017	0.0017	0.0017	0.0017	0.0017	0.0017	0.0017
FR Franc	0.1737	0.2961	0.1059	0.2459	0.2017	0.2396	0.3332	0.3332	0.3332

Middle Eastern Currencies									
	USD	DEM	GBP	JPY	CHF	ITL	FRF	YEN	DM
US Dollar	1.0000	1.7553	0.6100	1.4138	1.1622	1.3808	1.6632	1.9187	5.7581
Jordan Dinar	1.4324	2.5072	0.3322	0.8140	0.6272	0.7171	0.8700	1.0170	3.0600
GB Sterling	0.2668	0.4608	0.1000	0.2400	0.1900	0.2200	0.2700	0.3100	0.9600
Bahrain Dinar	2.46	4.26	0.6400	1.5000	1.1600	1.3600	1.6600	1.9100	5.7600
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.4784	0.0604	0.1404	0.1104	0.1304	0.1604	0.1904	0.5604
Kuwait Dinar	1.3063	2.2900	0.3400	0.8100	0.6200	0.7100	0.8700	1.0100	3.0600
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.4760	0.0600	0.1400	0.1100	0.1300	0.1600	0.1900	0.5600
Lebanese 1000	0.65	1.1300	0.1400	0.3400	0.2600	0.3000	0.3700	0.4300	1.3000
Egyptian	0.2554	0.4460	0.0554	0.1304	0.1004	0.1204	0.1504	0.1804	0.5504

Energy									
	USD	DEM	GBP	JPY	CHF	ITL	FRF	YEN	DM
Brent	19.88	34.52	13.47	31.40	25.12	29.12	35.12	40.12	120.12
W. Texas	20.25	35.12	13.75	31.75	25.40	29.40	35.40	40.40	121.40
Bonny	19.85	34.40	13.40	31.30	25.00	29.00	35.00	40.00	119.00
Dubai	19.10	33.00	12.60	30.00	24.00	28.00	34.00	39.00	115.00
UL Gas	205.00	360.00	135.00	315.00	255.00	295.00	355.00	405.00	1205.00

Metal Prices									
	USD	DEM	GBP	JPY	CHF	ITL	FRF	YEN	DM
Gold (oz's)	344.7	600.0	225.0	510.0	400.0	470.0	580.0	670.0	2000.0
Silver (oz's)	4.7	8.2	3.0	7.0	5.5	6.5	8.0	9.0	28.0
Platinum (oz's)	401.5	710.0	265.0	610.0	480.0	570.0	700.0	800.0	2500.0
AL (3 Months)	1.015	1.800	0.370	0.850	0.670	0.780	0.950	1.100	3.400
CU (3 Months)	2.530	4.400	1.600	3.700	2.900	3.400	4.200	4.900	15.000
Zinc (3 Months)	1.337	2.400	0.890	2.000	1.500	1.800	2.200	2.500	8.000
Lead (3 Months)	0.31	0.54	0.20	0.45	0.35	0.42	0.52	0.60	1.90
Ni (3 Months)	7.190	12.720	4.700	10.800	8.500	10.000	12.500	14.500	46.000

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)									
	USD	DEM	GBP	JPY	CHF	ITL	FRF	YEN	DM
USD	5.66	9.88	3.67	8.50	6.60	7.92	9.80	11.20	35.00
GBP	5.37	9.53	3.40	8.00	6.30	7.60	9.40	10.80	34.00
JPY	0.48	0.85	0.32	0.75	0.58	0.68	0.85	0.95	3.00
DEM	3.06	5.10	1.88	4.30	3.40	4.10	5.00	5.80	18.00
FRF	3.18	5.49	2.00	4.50	3.50	4.20	5.10	5.90	19.00
CHF	0.75	1.32	0.48	1.10	0.88	1.05	1.28	1.45	4.60
ITL	6.88	12.33	4.51	10.30	8.10	9.60	11.90	13.80	43.00

JOD Cross Rates									
	USD	DEM	GBP	JPY	CHF	ITL	FRF	YEN	DM
US Dollar	0.708	1.240	0.460	1.070	0.840	0.970	1.200	1.380	4.200
GB Sterling	1.550	2.700	1.000	2.310	1.610	2.260	2.770	3.140	9.460
DE Mark	0.414	0.730	0.260	0.610	0.480	0.570	0.700	0.800	2.500
CH Franc	0.500	0.870	0.320	0.750	0.590	0.690	0.850	0.970	3.000
FR Franc	0.122	0.210	0.080	0.190	0.150	0.180	0.220	0.250	0.780
JP Yen	0.008	1.400	0.024	1.000	0.008	0.009	0.011	0.013	0.038
NL Guilder	0.002	0.004	0.001	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002
IT Lira	0.000	1.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

- In the — (fated)
- Insect feeder
- Competent
- Where Greeks gathered
- Winglike
- Go-getter
- Act firmly
- Eye
- Bewilders
- Mythical bird
- List ender
- Electric unit
- Old Italian coins
- At —
- Stranger
- Claims
- Ad —
- (improvise)
- Took over, in a way
- out (make do)
- Went astray
- Hue
- Claret and crimson
- Curves
- Hammer head
- Owns
- Plains, IL
- Marries
- 2-wheeled carriage
- Small gift
- Appropriated
- James of music
- Highway divisions
- All — (attentive)
- Optimistic
- Get up

DOWN

- Cartoonist Al
- Chills and fever
- Memory
- Let fall
- More rational
- Dance step
- Communication word
- Country in Asia
- Food essentials
- Bring forward as evidence
- Timely benefit
- Obscene
- Sea eagles
- Cupid
- Shaver
- Red, white and blue
- Snap
- Similar
- Put down
- flooring
- Aviv
- Occupations
- Transferred, in a way
- Solo
- Blockade
- Actor Buddy
- Once called
- Fast plane
- More stylish
- Wise
- Amazes
- Cut
- Northern bird
- Don of football
- Italian city
- Portico
- Needy
- Within: pref.
- NCOs
- Distant
- Former Spanish province in Africa
- Observes
- Gaelic
- Utter

by Harold B. Counts

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Based in the Middle East



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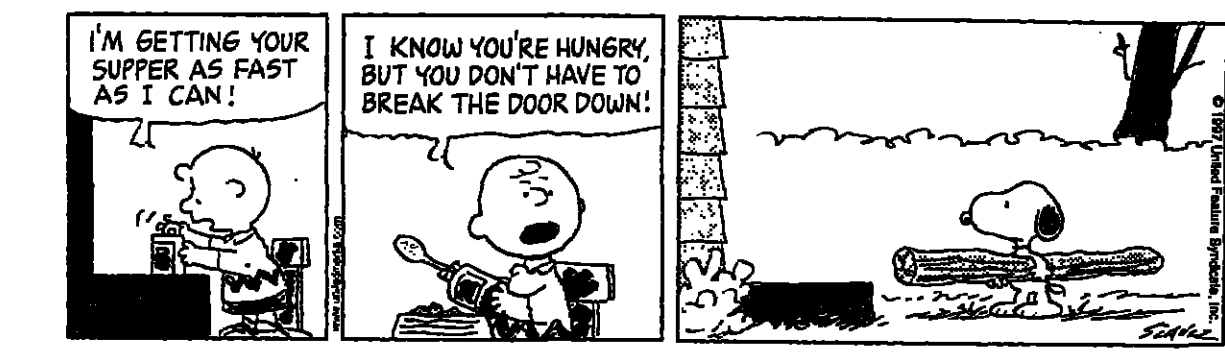
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The position will be based in Amman but will involve travel throughout Jordan, Syria and Lebanon including periods of time away from home and possibly other countries abroad.

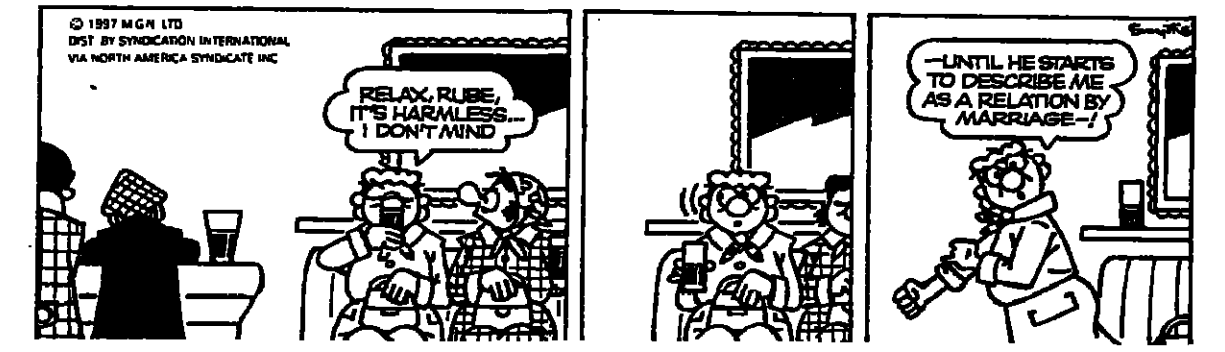
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Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR MONDAY, JUNE 2, 1997

By Thomas S. Pierson,
Astrologer, Carroll
Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is not a good time today to let others know what your plans for the days ahead are. Be cautious in handling civic affairs and driving on the highway later this evening, thereby avoiding any difficulties.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You should not bring any guests into your home today, and thereby avoid difficulty. You should exercise extreme caution at all times with fellow associates and thereby make your career activities quite successful.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) An annoying situation at your career activities will tempt you to run off to something else, however, this would not be any better, so stay where you are. Later this evening will be good for meeting with close friends.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You should not get into any get-rich-quick schemes today, as the only thing you will get is broke. Don't violate your ethics for any reason or you will regret the entire situation and this could be quite detrimental.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) If you don't study every phase of a new project today, you could make some big mistakes, which could be harmful to your reputation. Stop all that wishful thinking later this evening, and be more practical in your actions.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Your intuition is not up to par at this time, so don't make any snap judgements or you could discover that your actions could be useful. Your mate is in a poor mood later this evening, so be soothing to him or her.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You will have to rely completely on yourself today, as others will be too busy to help you to get any tasks completed. Avoid any disagreements with your friends later this evening or there could be great difficulty.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Find out what is expected of you today by those in authority, and do what you can to please them. You should not do anything to spoil your reputation which you have put too much effort into making as spotless as possible.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) If you want to give some attention to a new project today, be sure you don't neglect other activities. Take advice from a friend later this evening, however, be carefully that this doesn't backfire in your face.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You may feel that you have too many responsibilities ahead of you today, however, handle them in your orderly fashion and get good results from those in authority. Later this evening will be good for seeing close friends.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You should not sever your relationship with a good friend over a silly disagreement. Try to create a more cooperative atmosphere at your place of business with fellow associates which can make you all more successful.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Take some time today to handle those tasks which are not much fun, but have to be taken care of anyway. Don't allow criticism bother you at this time or you could discover that you won't be as successful as you envision.

Birthstone of June: Pearl — Moon Stone

Iraq, Syria to open borders for trade soon

BAGHDAD (R) — An Iraqi minister said Sunday Iraq and Syria would soon open their borders for trade, severed since the early 1980s.

Trade Minister Mohammad Mehdi Saleh said an Iraqi trade delegation would visit Syria soon to strike commercial deals under Iraq's oil-for-food deal with the United Nations.

"The Iraqi side has taken measures to prepare for the opening of borders to accommodate goods and items to be

imported from Syria ... An announcement on the opening of the borders will be made soon," the minister said in a news conference in Baghdad.

"A trade delegation as well as one from the Ministry of Health will travel to Syria soon to conclude commercial deals," the minister said.

A delegation of leading Syrian businessmen was in Iraq early this month and Mr. Saleh said their visit was successful.

Iraq's most influential news-

paper Babel urged normalisation of ties with both Syria and Iran Saturday to form a front against "imperialists and Zionists."

Oil Minister Amir Mohammad Rasheed announced in a news conference Friday that he hoped Damascus would reopen a pipeline via its territory for Iraqi oil exports after the two Arab foes, ruled by rival wings of the Arab Baath Party, resumed commercial ties.

The Syrian government closed the pipeline in 1982. Mr. Saleh said negotiations between his ministry and Syrian companies were continuing in Baghdad for the supply of Syrian goods under the oil deal.

The oil pact allows Iraq

exports of \$2 billion in six months to enable it buy food, medicine and other essential commodities for Iraqis handicapped by U.N. sanctions imposed after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The deal, which started in December last year, comes under review on June 9.

Mr. Saleh said Iraq wanted to import pulses, detergents and wheat from Syria — items not banned under the U.N. sanctions.

Mr. Saleh said the countries had also agreed to use Syrian ports to receive shipments of foreign goods destined for Iraq.

"Serious steps have been taken to normalise ties on the commercial side," Mr. Saleh said.

Live sheep industry picks up after raising tax on cut meat imports

By Marci von Savoye
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In an effort to boost the live sheep industry, the government recently raised its taxes on imported chilled meat by 200 fils per kilogramme.

But the questions remain ... how will the tax affect the meat market and how will it affect the consumer?

Director of Trade Adnan Odeh said in an interview with the Jordan Times that the live sheep industry was suffering finan-

cially. Livestock companies were, he said, "not making profits so they stopped slaughtering."

Mr. Odeh added that since the tax increase, the live sheep industry is running profitably again.

Hani Hijazi of Hijazi and Ghosheh Foodstuffs Company said the tax hike hurts his company, which is involved in both chilled imported meat and livestock trade.

According to Mr. Hijazi his company controls about 70 to 80 per cent of the market and because the government's price

ceiling on meat — JD2.900 per kilogramme — has not changed, the consumer is not directly affected by the tax increase.

But the consumer should wonder, if meat companies are losing money from the tax increase, are the companies' losses being compensated by the meat's quality?

Despite the meat industry complaints brought to the Ministry of Trade, Mr. Odeh said the chilled meat traders "are still importing large quantities."

Mr. Hijazi said the fresh meat trade is easier, or "less risky" for Jordan companies than the livestock trade, for the meat can be taken right off the plane and is ready to sell. Sheep, on the other hand,

need to be taken care of, fed, slaughtered and cleaned before they are marketed to the consumer.

However, Mr. Hijazi said he believes that in the end the livestock industry will be more beneficial to Jordan's economy. Livestock, imported mainly from Australia, are higher maintenance, but because they require more labour they produce more jobs for Jordanians.

Still, with the tax increase on fresh meat, Mr. Hijazi said the collective taxes on livestock double those of chilled meat.

"Add taxes in addition to the high cost of meat and the local people can't afford it," Mr. Hijazi said.

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Mulki would like importers to buy wheat, export flour

** INDUSTRY, TRADE and Supply Minister Hani Mulki said in an interview that it would be in the interest of the country if the private sector imports wheat and reexports it as flour in order to employ Jordanians, activate mills and increase the operations of the transport sector as well as the Port of Aqaba.

The minister's comments were published as the government opened the door Saturday for the private sector to import wheat and sell or reexport it as flour "without any restrictions." The permission is, however, conditioned on not utilising the wheat for the purpose of producing some types of local bread.

Dr. Mulki indicated that by allowing the private sector to import wheat, its role will be consolidated and optimised and will be beneficial to the Jordanian economy. "As such, Jordan will be placed in a position for transit trade in wheat and its location will be consolidated as economic pivotal country in the region," the minister pointed out.

He explained that the ministry will allow wheat importers to use the warehouses and silos to stock the wheat against a charge to be determined later. The funds earned will go to the benefit of the consumers through the continued subsidies provided by the state.

The minister emphasised that his ministry will continue to carry out its responsibilities by importing the best quality of wheat for the production of local bread and will continue stocking large quantities that would be sufficient for many months.

Noting that the silos and warehouses have enough stocks to last for a period of seven months, the minister indicated that such a volume would ensure that the ministry remain the party to intervene directly in the market if prices rise (Al Dustour).

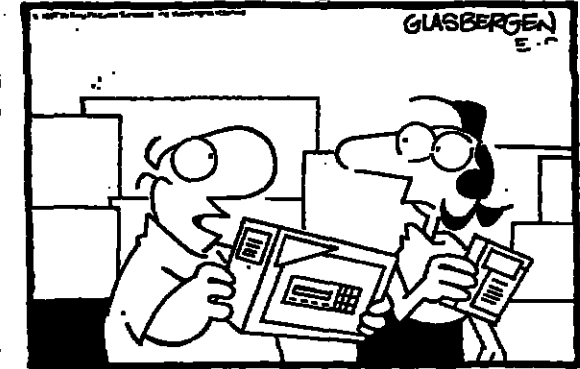
MoGA wants to inspect slaughtered poultry before sales

** ACCORDING TO a decision by the Council of the Municipality of Greater Amman (MoGA), poultry slaughtered by licensed private slaughterhouses outside the boundaries of the municipality cannot be marketed freely in the Amman area.

The slaughtered poultry should be first inspected by the specialised veterinarian at the MoGA slaughterhouses to ensure public health safety.

Furthermore 20 fils will be charged per kilogramme of poultry slaughtered at licensed private slaughterhouses provided that an agreement is reached between MoGA and the private slaughterhouses for the services that will be provided at the municipality slaughterhouse directorate.

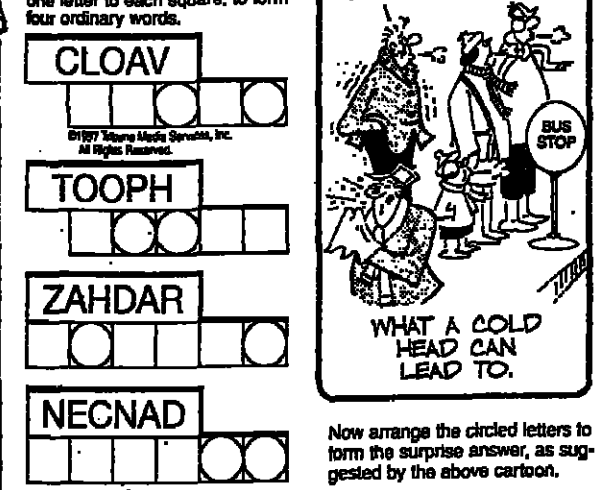
THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"A waterproof fax for our shower is the stupidest gadget I've ever heard of—but I've got to have one!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumble: GOING HAVEN CAVORT WHALER

Answer: How the makeup artist described the fore-nocier - WEATHER VAIN

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
BOSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDAN											
TELEPHONE 60711 / 60719											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 01/06/1997											
PART 12 MONTHS HIGH	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE			
269,000 212,000	ARAB BANK	11.7	1.57	10	300	76580	255.50	255.00	-50-		
1,160 1,880	JOR. INDUSTRIAL BK.	8	0.00	157	1	326205	733440	2.16	2.27	11+	
5,800 4,100	GRAND AMMAN BANK	11.4	2.71	1	1000	5600	5.50	5.50	-		
3,600 2,780	BANK OF JORDAN	6.6	0.00	1	500	1575	3.10	3.15	-05-		
1,210 1,880	MID-EAST INV. BK.	64.4	0.00	5	2100	2104	1.01	1.98	03+		
2,480 2,120	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	18.6	7.29	8	9000	20770	2.50	2.10	-29+		
5,120 4,250	THE BOUSHA BK.	15.5	1.74	79	63433	327684	5.12	5.19	07+		
2,950 2,440	JOR. KIWAT BANK	9.8	0.00	6	1610	4442	2.75	2.75	-		
1,050 1,780	JOR. COLB BANK	4.9	8.84	10	13000	10810	1.45	1.42	-01+		
4,050 3,480	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	15.4	3.17	5	1750	6648	3.80	3.79	-01+		
2,050 1,850	UNION BK. INV. INV.	20.8	0.00	2	548	644	1.18	1.18	-		
3,800 3,000	JOR. INV. INV. INV.	20.8	0.00	7	1050	3412	3.24	3.23	-01+		
2,850 1,000	BEIT AL-JAL (BEITKA)	9	10.95	11	4000	5466	1.30	1.37	07+		
1,440 1,000	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	9	0.00	2	1500	1690	1.12	1.13	01+		
BANK SECTOR TOTALS		INDEX: 197.42	CHNG: +0.31	304	425996	1200427					
2,400 1,600	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	4.9	11.63	7	2550	4384	1.70	1.72	-02+		
2,550 1,850	TABOOR INSUR.	9.8	8.21	1	1000	1850	1.85	1.85	-		
2,500 1,850	ARAB LIFE INSUR.	7.2	5.01	4	2575	4764	1.85	1.85	-		
6,170 3,700	ALMANIR AL-ARABY	13.6	0.00	1	150	863	5.75	5.75	-		
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS		INDEX: 115.35	CHNG: +0.11	13	6275	11860					
1,820 1,450	JOR. ELECTRIC PBL.	8.6	5.55	65	58232	104505	1.79	1.79	-		
1,540 1,280	TRID ELECTRICITY	8.4	8.15	6	12350	17456	1.45	1.41	-04-		
6,100 4,100	ARAB INTL. HOTELS	17.8	3.45	1	1600	9254	6.10	5.79	-31-		
2,650 2,090	SEPPING LINES	14.1	5.37	4	1050	1772	2.31	2.42	11+		
1,420 1,930	KATL. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	75	7250	98565	1.31	1.38	07+		
1,860 1,480	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	25.7	0.00	2	500	250	1.48	1.50	02+		
7,570 5,900	JOR. SECURITIES	22.7	3.78	2	131	748	5.90	5.60	-30-		
2,120 1,170	MID. EAST HOTELS	19.4	0.00	1	1000	1270	1.70	1.77	07+		
3,720 2,900	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	7.8	0.00	8	6700	20103	3.00	3.00	-		
2,330 1,630	UNION BANK DEV.	8.4	0.00	23	13380	23701	1.77	1.77	-		
1,060 1,650	UNION LAND DEV.	8	0.00	2	200	141	1.68	1.71	03+		
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS		INDEX: 113.59	CHNG: -0.95	191	169365	283375					
1,250 930	ATYADERS	9	0.00	1	1500	1545	1.03	1.03	-		
1,290 930	JOR. CONSTR. FACT.	2.7	2.40	147	12000	141303	1.21	1.21	-12+		
3,940 2,720	JOR. PROSPECTIVE MINES	11.3	2.45	24	105300	432090	3.94	4.08	14+		
6,910 4,950	ARAB POTASH CO.	16.4	2.84	32	51400	360481	6.91	7.05	14+		
10,400 8,720	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	8.7	8.10	7	18300	183116	1.95	1.95	-01+		
7,360 6,000	JORDAN TANNING	7.4	5.00	4	265	1590	6.00	6.00	-		
1,470 1,050	WOOLLEN INDUSTRIES	11.2	7.75	1	10380	12152	1.23	1.29	06+		
3,260 2,650	WATERWORKS & POWER	10.8	0.00	7	1250	2823	2.07	2.08	01+		
7,200 6,420	JOR. WOREST MILLS	10.7	3.01	5	1150	7628	1.70	1.65	-05-		
3,950 3,040	ARAB FARM. MFG.	10.9	5.04	64	27253	108381	3.95	3.97	02+		
7,250 5,650	JOR. CERAMIC IND.	7.8	2.84	2	1700	11510	6.70	6.80	10+		
2,570 2,050	JORDAN DAIRY	7.8	10.63	1	100	230	2.30	2.30	-		
2,070 1,390	JOR. PAPER MFG.	17.4	5.71	8	1990	2784	1.40	1.40	-		
1,700 1,130	ARAB FERTILISER	13.5	6	1650	2016	1.21	1.20	-01-			
5,550 4,250	DAR ALMANA DR. INV.	13.5	4.55	48	35830	196927	5.28	5.50	22+		
4,810 3,060	ARAB ALUM. IND.	7.4	7.91	23	12350	4278	3.16	3.16	-		
1,310 1,020	ARAB SAPER COV. IND.	33.0	0.00	30	21800	23814	1.07	1.08	01+		
1,840 1,520	NATIONAL IND.	9	0.00	10	5600	10800	1.57	1.57	-01-		
1,450 1,050	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	3	5500	6128	75	75	-		
3,730 2,130	NAT. CABLE WIRE MFG.	48.2	0.00	2	1000	2995	2.95	3.00	05+		
1,070 970	JOR. SUIPER-CHEM	9	0.00	9	9000	3314	66	66	-		
1,670 1,120	ARAB PETRO. CHEM.	19.4	4.76	23	7750	11680	1.51	1.47	-04-		
2,590 1,410	UNIV. WARE. IND.	9	8.47	41	1450	2175	1.50	1.50	-		
1,430 1,130	JOR. INDS. RESOURCES	15.9	4.77	41	25230	29791	1.19	1.18	-01-		
1,600 1,300	NAT. CEMENT	13.9	0.00	60	42000	38996	1.56	1.59	03+		
1,230 940	JOR. INDS. CO.	16.9	0.00	31	15500	24457	1.56	1.59	03+		
2,090 1,510	EX. -FAX READY WEAR	56.0	0.00	14	11300	13212	1.18	1.17	-02-		
1,330 1,080	UNION CH. & VEG.	43.6	0.00	42	35800	34145	1.91	1.96	05+		
1,340 960	UNION CH. & VEG.	43.6	0.00	42	35800	34145	1.91	1.96	05+		
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS		INDEX: 135.17	CHNG: +2.07	718	804957	2999814					
GRAND TOTAL		INDEX: 154.35	CHNG: +0.98	1226	1406993	4495476					
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 01/06/1997											
740 420	JOR. TRADE PAC.	13.6	0.00	30	60750	31233	51	51	-		
640 660	UNION INV. 501	9	0.00	58	214900	42311	68	70	02+		
780 370	ARAB FTA INVEST.	9	0.00	60	207000	109710	50	53	03+		
850 780	AL-GERARD INV. 751	9	0.00	6	10000	5615	78	78	-		
N 950 610	AL-DANILIAN 751	67.2	0.00	36	77200	34588	70	70	-		
640 230	JOR. INDS. MATCH-UNICO	9	0.00	4	2800	675	24	24	-		
130 610	ARAB FOOD 751	9	0.00	8	1350	1904	78	78	-		
630 430	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	51.8	0.00	12	12750	7967	45	45	-		
720 490	KALLI. KELLIS	9	0.00	8	6550	388	45	45	-		
780 400	KUC. KUC. KUC. KUC. KUC	9	0.00	52	4800	4984	58	58	-		
N 950 900	READY MIX CONCRETE	10.9	0.00	4	10100	9090	90	90	-		
950 710	JORDAN STEEL	10.0	6.85	25	59550	43884	72	72	01+		
730 500	UNION 751	9	0.00	1	500	188	63	63	-		
1,260 850	UNION TOBACCO 751	9	0.00	2	350	227	87	89	02+		
760 350	RAIL FARM. 851	8	0.00	1	92	53	61	61	-		
350 390	UNION 751	25.9	0.00	11	13500	5765	42	42	-		
920 760	INDS. CERAMIC	21.0	0.00	5	9300	7483	80	80	-		
590 520	INDS. CERAMIC	21.0	0.00	5	9300	7483	80	80	-		
N 1,000 810	NAT. ALUMINIUM. 751	9	0.00	27	18793	11597	85	86	01+		
N 1,020 720	ARAB INTL. FOOD FACT.	34.7	0.00	2	600	432	72	72	-		
870 530	MID-EAST COMPLEX	6.4	14.71	14	17000	12056	67	68	01+		
GRAND TOTAL				388	875243	418787					
7 : New 12 months high											
+ : New 12 months low											
N : Listed during the past 12 months											
P : P/E ratio in 100 or more											

IAAF suspends Slaney

ATHENS (R) — American Mary Slaney has been suspended from competition after a positive dope test, world athletics chiefs said Saturday.

"The suspension decision for Mary Slaney was taken on Friday night during our council in Athens," International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) Spokesman Giorgio Reineri said.

Slaney was found to have high levels of testosterone in her body at the U.S. trials last June.

Her husband Richard Slaney, reacting to the ban in a telephone interview at their home in Eugene, Oregon, said the IAAF was "acting with malice."

"This is outrageous...The IAAF doesn't have to right to suspend Mary. They are going outside their own regulations and rules. That's for the national governing body to decide."

"At this point she has no intentions of going to the world championships because of all of this nonsense. This just shows they (the IAAF) is acting with malice and disregard for anybody's rights...They are acting above the law."

Jim Coleman, a lawyer for Slaney, said: "If this is true, it would represent an extraordinary departure from the rules and practices that govern the sport."

"It would herald a troubling relationship between the international federation and other national federations."

"There is a procedure in place for dealing with these issues. We are following the procedure. I think the IAAF ought to stay out of it. If this is true, I expect our federation will oppose it."

Sandra Farmer-Patrick, another American runner, was banned by the U.S. Track and Field Association for four years earlier this month for testing positive for the steroid testosterone but Reineri said the IAAF had yet to be informed of the ban.

"We have nothing yet from the U.S. on any ban decision concerning Farmer-Patrick so she was suspended as well," he said.

IAAF President Primo Nebiolo said all athletes testing positive would from now on be suspended immediately.

"If a federation is reluctant to act immediately in accordance with IAAF rules, then the IAAF council will from now on suspend the athlete until the national federation decides (a ban or not)," he told a news conference.

The IAAF decision was prompted by what it considered to be the sluggish handling of the doping cases involving Farmer-Patrick and Slaney by the U.S. Track and Field Association.

Farmer-Patrick ran in the Atlanta Olympics last August despite the positive test because the case had not been concluded.

Slaney's case is not yet over.

"Slaney will not compete until the U.S. Track and Field Association decides on her case," Reineri said.

Under IAAF rules, athletes are banned immediately after the positive test pending an inquiry. But under U.S. regulations an athlete is not suspended until the competitor has had time to have a hearing, if required.

Gebrselassie sets new world record but no \$1 million

HENGLO, Netherlands (R) — Haile Gebrselassie set a two miles world best of eight minutes 1.08 seconds at an international meeting on Saturday but missed out on a \$1 million payout.

Ethiopian Gebrselassie took nearly two-and-a-half seconds off the mark of 8:03.54 set by Daniel Komen of Kenya in July last year.

Despite going into new territory for the event, Gebrselassie left the fanny bladders Komen stadium without a cent for his efforts.

"We always said it would be a million dollars or nothing," said Jos Hermans, the meeting organiser and ironically Gebrselassie's agent.

A \$1 million cheque was on offer if any runner in the race, built up as a head-to-head clash between Gebrselassie and Noureddine Morceli of Algeria, broke the eight-minute barrier.

"There was no appearance money," confirmed Hermans.

Nevertheless Gebrselassie was far from downcast at the outcome.

"I actually feel more than a million dollars. The money is not that important. I can get it in the future," he said.

Gebrselassie suggested that the gusting wind and poor pacemaking was responsible for his inability to go under eight minutes.

"I do not know exactly how much time the wind cost me but maybe two, three or four seconds. Also the pacemaking at the start was a little slow."

Instead of running all the way to the bank, Gebrselassie will now set his sights on regaining the world record over 10,000 metres.

He plans an assault on the time of 26 minutes 38.08 seconds, recorded by Salah Hissou last August, at the Oslo Grand Prix meeting on July 4.

"Now I've got my two miles record back I want the 10,000 metres," said Gebrselassie.

Philip Mosima of Kenya was second in the two-mile race in 8:14.45 and Mohammed Mourit of Belgium third in 8:14.88.

Morceli dropped out at the start of the final lap, clutch-



Haile Gebrselassie grimaces after finishing his two miles race in a new world record of 8:01.08 at the Adriaan-Paulen Memorial Athletics meeting. Gebrselassie failed to earn the \$1 million of prize money on offer as he did not finish within the required 8 minutes (Reuters photo)

ing his left thigh and later complained of having suffered badly from jet lag after his return from high altitude training in the United States four days ago.

The highlight of the remainder of the meeting was the 1,500 metres in which Morocco's Hicham El Guerrouj ran 3:29.51, the fastest time in the world this year.

Assefa Mezgebu of Ethiopia, a training partner of Gebrselassie, showed shades of his compatriot's ability by winning the 10,000 metres in 27:25.01. He took nearly 40 seconds off his previous best for the distance.

Kim Batten of the United States, the world champion and holder of the world best in the women's 400 metres

hurdles, won her specialist event in 54.41. She was first to rise from the gun and finished well clear of the opposition.

Lydia Cheromei of Kenya was an equally impressive winner of the women's 3,000 metres. The former world junior cross country champion clocked 8:38.86, the fastest time in the world this year.

Ronaldo under fire from Brazilian media

BRASILIA (R) — Ronaldo was under fire from Brazil's media on Saturday after the World Cup holders suffered a stunning 4-2 defeat by Norway in a friendly in Oslo on Friday.

The Barcelona striker, normally the golden boy of Brazilian soccer, was said to have played as if his possible move from the Spanish club to Internazionale Milan was the only thing on his mind.

"The millions of Inter Milan were knocking about in his head," Correio Braziliense said.

The defeat ended an unbeaten run of 43 games by Brazil's main team — not including two defeats for the Olympic team and losing the 1995 Copa America final on penalties to Uruguay.

"Losing is a learning experience," coach Mario Zagallo told national Globo television. "It's good it happened sooner rather than later."

"They were like basketball players. They're very hard to play against," grumbled central defender Marcio Santos.

He appeared unsettled during the match by the height of Norwegian striker Tor Andre Flo, who scored twice and set up another goal.

Brazil's media was unforgiving. "Shame in Norway," screamed a headline in newspaper Correio Braziliense and daily O Globo printed the single word "Disaster" across its back page.

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Closing date, 15 June.

History of NBA championship series

NEW YORK (R) — The Chicago Bulls hosted the Utah Jazz Sunday in the opening game of the best-of-seven National Basketball Association finals. The following is a list of past NBA championship results:

1996	Chicago	Seattle	4-2
1995	Houston	Orlando	4-0
1994	Houston	New York	4-3
1993	Chicago	Phoenix	4-2
1992	Chicago	Portland	4-2
1991	Chicago	LA Lakers	4-1
1990	Detroit	Portland	4-1
1989	Detroit	LA Lakers	4-0
1988	LA Lakers	Detroit	4-3
1987	LA Lakers	Boston	4-2
1986	Boston	Houston	4-2
1985	LA Lakers	Boston	4-2
1984	Boston	LA Lakers	4-3
1983	Philadelphia	LA Lakers	4-0
1982	LA Lakers	Philadelphia	4-2
1981	Boston	Houston	4-2
1980	LA Lakers	Philadelphia	4-2
1979	Seattle	Washington	4-1
1978	Washington	Seattle	4-3
1977	Portland	Philadelphia	4-2
1976	Boston	Phoenix	4-2
1975	Golden State	Washington	4-0
1974	Boston	Milwaukee	4-3

1973	New York	LA Lakers	4-1
1972	LA Lakers	New York	4-1
1971	Milwaukee	Baltimore	4-0
1970	New York	LA Lakers	4-3
1969	Boston	LA Lakers	4-3
1968	Boston	LA Lakers	4-2
1967	Philadelphia	San Francisco	4-2
1966	Boston	LA Lakers	4-3
1965	Boston	LA Lakers	4-1
1964	Boston	San Francisco	4-1
1963	Boston	LA Lakers	4-2
1962	Boston	LA Lakers	4-3
1961	Boston	St. Louis	4-1
1960	Boston	St. Louis	4-3
1959	Boston	Minneapolis	4-0
1958	St. Louis	Boston	4-2
1957	Boston	St. Louis	4-3
1956	Philadelphia	Fort Wayne	4-1
1955	Syracuse	Fort Wayne	4-3
1954	Minneapolis	Syracuse	4-3
1953	Minneapolis	New York	4-1
1952	Minneapolis	New York	4-3
1951	Rochester	New York	4-2
1950	Minneapolis	Syracuse	4-2
1949	Minneapolis	Washington	4-2
1948	Baltimore	Philadelphia	4-2
1947	Philadelphia	Chicago	4-1

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Jim Carie...in

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Blue Jays crash A's 10-0

OAKLAND (R) — Roger Clemens became the first 10-game winner in the majors and Joe Carter homered to cap an eight-run fourth inning Saturday as the Toronto Blue Jays demolished the Oakland Athletics 13-3.

Clemens (10-0) pitched eight innings and allowed two runs and eight hits. The big right-hander struck out only four but benefited from four double plays. The A's output actually raised Clemens' earned run average from 1.81 to 1.85.

"Roger has done a tremendous job for this club," said Toronto (26-25) manager Cito Gaston. "Without him, we're probably in last place. I would say he's probably pitching as well as he's ever pitched."

The win snapped the Blue Jays' four-game losing streak.

In Baltimore, Tony Tarasco, Cal Ripken and Jeffrey Hammonds all homered and drove in two runs as the Baltimore Orioles overcame a four-run deficit to win their fifth straight game, 8-5, over the Cleveland Indians.

In Boston, Andy Pettitte allowed two runs and struck out eight over 7 1/3 innings and Paul O'Neill hit two solo homers to lead the New York Yankees to a 7-2 win over the Red Sox.

Pettitte (7-3) snapped a personal two-game losing skid and earned his first career decision in Fenway Park. "If you make good pitches and you keep the hitters off balance, they're not going to drive the ball off you," he said. "I was able to do that today."

At Texas, Rusty Greer homered and drove in a pair of runs and Julio Santana, outdueling Kevin Appier as the Texas Rangers beat the Kansas City Royals 3-1.

Greer drove in a run with a fielder's choice groundout in the first and followed Ivan Rodriguez's homer with his sixth homer in the third for the Rangers.

Appier (4-1) allowed three runs and eight hits in seven innings with three walks and nine strikeouts. He failed in his fifth attempt for his 100th career win.

The Milwaukee Brewers beat the Chicago White Sox 4-3 for their third straight win.

The game was tied in the seventh when Dave Nilsson led off with a double off Jaime Navarro (4-4). Williamson hit for Matt Mieske and lined a 0-2 pitch into right field for his first career hit, giving the Brewers a 3-2 lead.

Ben McDonald (6-3) improved to 4-0 at home this season.

In Seattle, the Tigers scored three runs in the first inning to back to the pitching of Omar Olivares as Detroit posted their fifth win in six games with a 4-2 decision over the Seattle Mariners.

In Anaheim, Dave Hollins homered twice and knocked in four runs as the Anaheim Angels beat the Minnesota Twins 5-3.

Expos, Mets win

Andres Galaraga walked a mammoth 529-foot grand slam and later emptied both benches by charging the pitcher on Saturday as the Colorado Rockies scored an 8-4 victory over the Florida Marlins.

Galaraga's homer to left was the longest ever hit at pro player park and opened a 7-0 lead for Colorado in the fourth inning. The bases-loaded blast off Kevin Brown was the ninth of Galaraga's career, leading all active national leaguers.

"As soon as I hit the ball, I knew it was a home run but I never thought it would go that far," said Galaraga. "I can't explain how happy I am to hit a ball that far."

Galaraga's happiness turned to rage in the eighth inning when he was hit by a pitch from reliever Dennis Cook. Earlier in the game,

Colorado's Ellis Burks and Florida's Gary Sheffield were also hit by pitches.

Galaraga, who has homered in each of the first three games of the four-game series, tackled Cook to launch a benches-clearing brawl. Only Galaraga was ejected.

In Chicago, Kevin Foster won for the fourth straight time and the Chicago Cubs reached Cincinnati's Mike Morgan for four runs in the fourth inning and defeated the Reds 7-4.

Foster improved to 7-3. "I was just throwing strikes and getting them to hit the ball," Foster said.

"Because the guys are playing well behind me, and they're hitting the ball too, you get more confidence when you get a nice lead."

The Cubs have gone 21-18 since starting the year 0-14.

In St. Louis, Gary Gaetti's sixth-inning RBI double snapped a tie and John Mabry capped the four-run inning with a two-run homer as the St. Louis Cardinals defeated the Los Angeles Dodgers 6-3.

In Pittsburgh, Darrin Fletcher and Rondell White each homered and scored twice and Dustin Hermanson (2-3) pitched seven strong innings to lead the Montreal Expos to a 4-2 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates.

White and Fletcher hit back-to-back homers in the first off Pittsburgh's Esteban Loaiza (4-2) to stake the Expos to a 2-0 lead. They each scored in a two-run fourth inning for Montreal, which won for just the second time in six games.

In New York, Carlos Baerga drove in four runs for the second time in four days and Armando Reynoso allowed two runs over seven innings as the surging New York Mets pounded the Philadelphia Phillies 10-3.

Butch Huskey and Edgaro Alfonzo added two RBI each for the Mets, who completed the month of May at 18-9.

Mark Leiter (4-6) took the loss as Philadelphia (19-33) dropped its third straight and nine of its last 12 overall.

In Houston, Wally Joyner had two hits and drove in three runs while scoring three and Steve Finley added three hits and three runs as the San Diego Padres pounded out 16 hits in a 12-5 rout of the Houston Astros.

The Padres scored four runs in each of the first two innings to avenge a 12-3 loss to Astros' starter Shane Reynolds (4-5) in April.

In Atlanta, Jeff Kent's infield single scored Stan Javier and snapped a seventh-inning tie as the San Francisco Giants defeated the Atlanta Braves 6-4.

Kent beat out a slow grounder to pitcher Joe Borowski (2-1) for the go-ahead run. An error by Braves shortstop Jeff Blauser allowed Barry Bonds to score the final run as Atlanta lost for just the second time in their last nine home games.

Jim Poole (2-0) yielded two hits and walked one in 1 1/3 scoreless innings for the win. Rod Beck, the sixth San Francisco pitcher, earned his Major League-leading 17th save.

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French Open Kafelnikov downs Philippoussis; Corretja upset by Dewulf

Coetzer beats Martinez; Graf through as Rosset falls

PARIS (Agencies) — Defending champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov, who has played better and better every match, swept into the quarter-finals of the men's singles at the French Open here on Sunday when he beat big-serving Mark Philippoussis of Australia 6-2, 6-3, 7-5.

Philippoussis hammered down 15 aces — but it was not enough to upset the third-seeded Kafelnikov who now faces either Andrei Medvedev of the Ukraine or Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil.

Magnus Norman of Sweden showed his shock victory over World No.1 Pete Sampras in the previous round was no fluke by sweeping into the quarter-finals by defeating Switzerland's Marc Rosset in four sets.

The 65th-ranked Swede, who put out the top-seeded Sampras on his 21st birthday on Friday, adapted best to the difficult windy conditions to upset the big-serving Rosset 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7/3), 6-3, he now plays Sunday's other 'giant-killer' Filip Dewulf who earlier put out eighth-seeded Alex Corretja of Spain in four sets.

Corretja, the eighth-seeded Spaniard who had been considered a favourite to win the French Open, was swept away by qualifier Filip Dewulf who became the first Belgian to reach the quarter-finals of a Grand Slam tournament, with his 5-7, 6-1, 6-4, 7-5 victory over one of the most consistent clay court players this season.

Meanwhile, Steffi Graf and South Africa's Amanda Coetzer — the player the defending champion prefers not to see the other side of the net — face each other in a potentially explosive quarter-final showdown at the French Open next week.

Both fought back after dropping the first set of their fourth-round matches on Sunday — Graf sweeping past Irina Spirelea of Romania 6-7 (4/7), 6-2, 6-2 and Coetzer defeating seventh-seeded Conchita Martinez 6-7, (4/7) 6-4, 6-3.

Corretja won the Italian Open title just before coming here, he was the highest seeded Spaniard and was considered a favorite, especially after the defeat of No. 1 Pete Sampras.

But he made an unusual number of mistakes against the steady Belgian.

"He played better than me, that's why he won," Corretja said later. But he also acknowledged that the wind "just killed my game today."

"I couldn't hit one ball normally," he said. Dewulf acknowledged that Corretja had more pressure on him, because he was considered a favourite.

"I went into the match with no complexes, I had nothing to lose," Dewulf said.

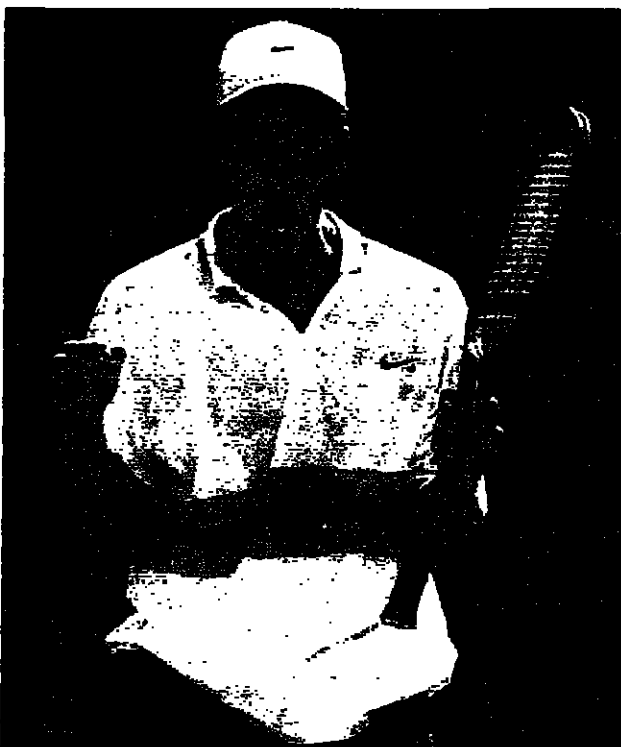
"Who can believe I'm in the quarter-finals of the French Open?" he said. "I think I'll have to pick up the newspaper tomorrow to see the results with my own eyes to believe it."

Dewulf is ranked No. 124 and became only the third qualifier in the Open era to reach the quarter-finals at Roland Garros.

Coetzer had never beaten Martinez in 11 previous matches.

Martinez blew a 5-2 lead in the first set and needed eight set points to clinch it. The Spaniard went on to lead 4-1 in the second, before Coetzer reeled off five straight games to level the score. Martinez made three straight errors in the final game and Coetzer clinched it with a lob to reach her first French Open quarterfinal.

"She definitely let me back into the match," Coetzer said.



Magnus Norman of Sweden reacts after winning his match against Marc Rosset of Switzerland in the French tennis open at Roland Garros stadium. Norman defeated Rosset 4-6 6-3 7-6 6-3 (Reuters photo)

The wind helped me, she didn't know what was coming off my racket."

Graf was clearly relieved to have come through her latest test in sunny but blustery conditions on the Roland Garros centre-court.

Referring to her match against Spirelea, Graf said: "I didn't start to well but it was OK in the end. The wind was probably the worst it's ever been here."

"It has to be aggression and patience against her," said Graf.

"She's very consistent and doesn't make many mistakes. She uses the court well and is very quick. I shall need to dictate the points and not make any errors."

One of the five remaining American women was also knocked out Sunday. Nicole Arendt lost to Ruxandra Dragomir of Romania, 6-1, 6-1.

Croatian ninth seed Iva Majoli shocked fifth-seeded Lindsay Davenport of the United States to reach the women's singles quarter-finals with a hard-earned 5-7, 6-4, 6-2 win.

On Saturday, it looked like the finals of a juniors tournament when two teen-agers, 16-year-old Martina Hingis and 15-year-old Anna Kournikova, took center court.

But this was the third round of the French Open, and when Hingis had finished dismantling her erstwhile junior rival, 6-1, 6-3, it was clear just how

wide the gap is between the two.

Although several more seeds lost Saturday, a few top players barely had to break a sweat.

Michael Chang didn't even have to finish his match. The American, at No. 2 the highest seed left after Pete Sampras' exit, was ahead 6-1, 5-2 when his opponent, Stephane Simian of France, retired with an injury.

On the women's side, Monica Seles, the No. 3 seed, trampled over France's Nathalie Tauziat, 6-0, 6-1. Tauziat didn't hold serve once in the lopsided encounter.

And Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, the sixth-seeded former champion, swept past Dominique Van Roost of Belgium 6-0, 6-3.

But three men's seeds didn't survive: Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands, No. 6 — Albert Costa of Spain, No. 11 — and Wayne Ferreira of South Africa, No. 13, who withdrew with a twisted ankle.

The marquee match of the day was definitely between Hingis and Kournikova. The two knew each other well, having battled twice in the juniors. Kournikova lost both of those matches — one, in the 1994 U.S. Open juniors, by 6-0, 6-0.

But as the blonde, braided Russian had said, that was the juniors, and that was a long time ago — especially when you're 15.

Expectations were higher for this match.

They didn't last long. The first set took 17 minutes, as Hingis broke her opponent twice. Both players hit hard, deep groundstrokes and went for the corners. But it was Hingis who was more consistent.

She also played smarter, wrong-footing her opponent and using the occasional well-placed drop shot.

In the second set, Kournikova played a little better. She broke Hingis late in the set for 3-5, but Hingis broke right back, and won the match on a netted Kournikova backhand. The whole thing took 42 minutes.

"I said I was going to be harder to beat every day," Hingis said later. "I needed that match two days ago."

"Today I just played smarter, much more concentrated."

Quotes and snippets from Roland Garros

• **Arazi's poetry still in motion:** Poetry fan Hicham Arazi of Morocco, through to the last sixteen of the men's singles, says works by French poet Jacques Prevert have been his inspiration here at Roland Garros. Arazi particularly likes "Le Jardin" (the garden) but his run of success here means he is now racing through a whole volume. "It's a thick book, so I don't have enough matches left to use up the whole book. It brings me luck, so why not?" he explained.

• **Martina chasing Martina:** World No. 1 Martina Hingis can emulate the great Martina Navratilova, whom she is named after, if she wins her fourth-round match against Barbara Paulus of Austria. A victory would bring the Swiss teenager's record since the start of the year to 36 straight wins, beating Navratilova's 1983 streak and equalling the Czech-born American's 36-0 performance at the start of 1978. Hingis surpassed Chris Evert's 34-0 run made in 1981 when she hammered Anna Kournikova of Russia in the third round of the women's centenary tournament at Roland Garros. Steffi Graf holds the record for the best start to any year in the Open era, reaching 45-0 in 1987.

• **Louvre visits for Seles:** Monica Seles has been visiting the Louvre to relax between matches here. "I had a friend of mine who came yesterday," said the three-times champion who is playing in the tournament for the first time without her father. Karolj Seles, who is being treated for stomach cancer in the United States, has been watching his daughter's progress on television. "Now that I have a few more people here I'm going out a little more," she said.

• **"I don't understand tennis any more,"** — France's Arnaud Boetsch after being told Australian Mark Woodford had defeated claycourter Albert Costa in straight sets.

• **"I'm not a very good morning person. I'm No. 1 in the world so I should have the right to say if I'm going to play on centre-court to say what time I want to play..."** — top-seed Martina Hingis on why she requested that her third-round match against Russia's Anna Kournikova should be put back on the playing schedule after being originally programmed as the curtain-raiser.

• **"When the matches count...they'll turn it on..."** Monica Seles, asked if she thought top-seeds Martina Hingis and Steffi Graf were struggling to find form.

• **"He had chances but didn't take them. Afterwards I didn't give him any chances..."** — seventh-seed Marcelo Rios of Chile describing his straight-sets victory over Frenchman Arnaud Boetsch.

• **"It's been a very 'French' French Open for me..."** second-seed Michael Chang after beating his third French opponent in as many matches.

• **"Training is pain..."** — French No. 1 Mary Pierce who reached the last sixteen of the women's singles after recovering from stomach flu.

• **"I thought I had to play almost perfect tennis to beat him. That ruined my game completely. I tried to hit a lot of winners on my serve but the only thing I did was hit a lot of double-faults..."** towering 6ft 8in (2m04) Dick Norman of Belgium after losing in the third-round to Spain's twice-champion Sergi Bruguera.

• **French farce** — For the first time in the Open era, France do not have a representative in the last 16 of the men's singles. The solitary French woman still in action is Canadian-born Mary Pierce, making this the host nation's smallest female representation since 1986.

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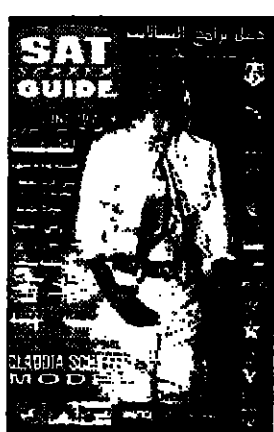
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EU in low-key initiative to break Iran stalemate

TEHRAN (R) — The European Union (EU) has quietly approached Iran to see whether a way can be found to thaw relations over allegations of high Iranian involvement in political killings abroad, Western diplomats said Sunday.

A senior Dutch foreign ministry official met Iranian officials in Tehran Saturday and will report back to European foreign ministers at a meeting of the EU's council of general affairs in Luxembourg Monday, the diplomats said.

The official, Count De Marchant D'Ansembourg, was sent to Tehran on an initiative of the EU's rotating presidency, which is held by the Netherlands, diplomats told Reuters.

Iran's official news agency IRNA said he met the Islamic Republic's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and held talks on the latest developments in EU-Iran relations.

The EU special envoy also conferred with Ali Ahani, director-general for western Europe at the Iranian foreign ministry, it added.

Relations between Iran

and the 15-member EU have been strained since a German court in April found that some of the highest figures in the Islamic Republic's government ordered the assassination of three Kurdish dissidents and their translator in Berlin's Mykonos restaurant in 1992.

Iran was enraged by the verdict. It had repeatedly denied involvement in the killings as alleged in court evidence by Iranian exiles.

EU ambassadors in Tehran were collectively recalled for consultations after the verdict and the EU suspended all ministerial contacts as well as its policy of "critical dialogue" with Iran.

The policy had been promoted most enthusiastically by Iran's largest trading partner Germany as an alternative to the U.S. Clinton administration's trade sanctions against Iran.

The United States accuses Iran of sponsoring terrorism abroad, attempting to acquire nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, and trying to wreck the Middle East peace process.

In retaliation for the EU

move, Tehran withdrew its ambassadors from European capitals.

But when the 15 EU countries decided three weeks later to send their ambassadors back to the Iranian capital, the Islamic Republic's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said the German ambassador, Horst Beschmann, was not welcome in Tehran.

President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said last week Germany would have to wait a while longer before its ambassador could return. He indicated the ban would be annulled in time but did not say when.

Mr. Velayati had said earlier Germany would have to rectify its mistake in implicating Iran in the Mykonos killings.

The Berlin judge had said a secret "special operations committee" whose members included Iran's supreme leader, president, intelligence minister and head of foreign policy ordered the shootings. It did not name the four.

German prosecutors have issued arrest warrants for three Iranian intelligence officers.



SWIM SUIT PROTEST TO KEEP CEMENT OFF HAIFA BEACH: Environmentalists from an Israeli group called 'Green Action' take the beach to the city Sunday as they protest plans to build a commercial marina on the southern entrance to the city of Haifa. Environmentalists protested outside the Interior Ministry wearing bathing suits, swim goggles and eating ice cream. Some of the 35 protestors brought their surf boards and scuba equipment as they tried to press their case not to replace a popular beach with a marina which would further pollute the Mediterranean Sea (photo by Reuters)

Pope blames 'profits, politicians, economists' for world hunger

WROCLAW, Poland (AFP) — Hunger reigns in parts of the world because of "the unrestrained desire for profit," Pope John Paul II said here Sunday, hitting out at politicians and economists for not acting to end unbalanced food distribution.

Calling for "a serious and worldwide examination of conscience," the Pope told more than 200,000 people at a huge open-air mass closing the World Eucharistic Congress that "the Earth is capable of feeding everyone."

"Why then today, at the end of the 20th century, are thousands of people dying of hunger?" he asked.

Describing a "geography of hunger," the pontiff said "many of our brothers and sisters are suffering from hunger and many are dying of it — especially children."

Given technological advances, it was, he stressed, "a great indictment."

"We must finally put an end to this scourge of hunger," he said, criticising "the politicians and economists upon whom rest the responsibility for a just distribution of goods, on both the worldwide and national levels."

He added: "May solidarity prevail over the unrestrained desire for profit and ways of applying trade laws which do not take into account inalienable human rights."

Meeting to stem hashish crop in eastern Lebanon

BAALBEK (AFP) — The governor of the eastern Lebanon region of Baalbek Saturday called a crisis meeting of village chiefs to try to prevent farmers turning to drug crops to earn their living.

Omar Yassin has called chiefs in the Bekaa region, which is under Syrian army control, to attend a meeting on June 5 and 6 where he will urge them "to destroy the crop of hashish," regional officials told AFP.

A Lebanese security source said 10 per cent of all land in the region, especially around the Harmel area, was reserved for the cultivation of hashish and poppy plants.

A farmer from the Al Kiruz family clan, who asked to remain anonymous, said he would refuse

to destroy his drug crop because the region was "on the edge of famine."

"I will defend my crop with my automatic rifle and I will not destroy it until the authorities guarantee me another source of income," he said.

In 1995 local farmers were involved in violent clashes with the security forces sent to the region to destroy drug crops.

With little help of Syrian troops, 35,000 of whom are stationed in Lebanon, Beirut began in 1992 wiping out the Cannabis crop which had been widely grown in the eastern Bekaa Valley during the 1975-1990 civil war.

Lebanon has asked for international assistance in substituting other crops in the Bekaa.

Explosion in China kills more than 50 coal miners

BEIJING (AFP) — More than 50 miners have been killed after an explosion ripped through a coal mine in the northeastern Chinese province of Liaoning, according to local reports seen here Sunday.

The blast occurred at 7:00 p.m. (1100 GMT) Wednesday in the Beilongfeng mine in the city of Fushun, some 200 kilometres east of the provincial capital, Shenyang, the Liaoning Daily newspaper reported.

According to the newspaper, some 68 miners were working underground at the time of the explosion.

Some 24 hours after the blast, more than 50 bodies had been recovered, it said, adding that an investigation into the cause of the explosion was continuing.

A series of major mining disasters in China since the beginning of the year prompted the coal ministry to threaten last month that mine officials would be held liable for accidents resulting in the deaths of 10 or more people.

According to vice minister, Wang Xianzheng, there were 251 more deaths in coal mines in the first quarter of 1997 than in the same period last year.

A March 4 blast at a private mine in Lushan, Henan province killed 89 people. At least two other explosions in illegal mines since have been reported, adding 33 to the death toll.

Labour Ministry figures indicate a total 9,974 miners died in industrial accidents last year.

Kenya, Tanzania urge world to assist Kabila rebuild Congo

NAIROBI (AFP) — Presidents Daniel Arap Moi of Kenya and Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania Sunday appealed to the international community to help the former Zaire's new President Laurent Kabila rebuild his country.

A joint communiqué issued at the end of Mr. Mkapa's four-day official visit to Kenya said the two leaders "reviewed developments in the Great Lakes region and welcomed the newly formed transitional government of the Democratic Republic of Congo."

"They appealed to the international community to assist President Laurent Kabila and his government in rebuilding the devastated country and realising the aspirations of its people," it added.

Mr. Kabila's troops marched into Kinshasa on May 17 after former President Mobutu Sese Seko abandoned leadership and fled the country.

Mr. Arap Moi and Mr. Mkapa also expressed concern that little progress had been made in trying to resolve the ethnic conflict in strife-torn Burundi.

Fighting in the three-and-a-half-year-old Burundian civil war has intensified in recent weeks despite peace talks in Rome between representatives of Pierre Buyoya, a Tutsi who seized power in a bloodless putsch in July last year, and the main rebel organisation, the National Council for the Defence of Democracy (CNDD), led by former Interior Minister Leonard Nyangoma.

Kenya and Tanzania also agreed to remove all trade barriers between them and to step up cooperation in the fields of immigration, education, culture and transport, the communiqué added.

Meanwhile, Mr. Arap Moi has honoured Mr. Mkapa with Kenya's highest national medal.

Mr. Mkapa was awarded the Commander of the Golden Heart Medal when he attended celebrations to mark the anniversary of internal self-government from Britain on June 1, 1963, the first move towards full independence six months later.

Algeria electing parliament 5 years after cancelled vote

ALGIERS (AP) — Five years after a cancelled vote set off a bloody cycle of Islamist insurgency and government retaliation, Algerians will elect a new parliament this week in a bid to lead the nation back to normalcy.

Taking no chances, President Liamine Zerroual, a retired general, has carefully scripted the process to ensure that whatever the outcome of Thursday's vote, his military-backed regime will remain in command. That has led to widespread apathy about the vote, which many people say will not solve underlying problems or heal the divisions of this north African country.

The 1992 vote for Algeria's first multi-party parliament went awry when the secular army aborted it midway to thwart a likely victory by the Islamic Salvation Front. That set off the violence that has drained the nation since.

A stepped-up campaign of beatings, throat slashing and disembowelment of pregnant women delivered a reminder from militant Muslims of their opposition to the regime and to the election they are not allowed to contest. Car bombs and massacres have killed nearly 500 civilians since April.

More than 60,000 people — civilians, insurgents, soldiers and police officers — are estimated to have died since the start of violence. Hundreds of thousands of citizens, many of them professionals, have fled abroad. Security forces, preparing for the elections, made sweeps around the country. Major marketplaces were ordered closed and trucks banned from streets to protect against hidden bombs.

The violence has worsened the crippled economy, soaring unemployment and official corruption that fed Islamist

fervour before the cancelled election.

Citizens, preoccupied by daily needs, have shown little enthusiasm for a vote widely seen as meaningless. "We're three brothers," said Rabah Hanin, a 27-year-old teacher. "One will vote, the other will stay at home and me, I'm going to take a nap." Under the watch of some 200 international observers, voters are to elect a 380-seat national assembly. But its power will be diluted by a new council of the nation, a sort of senate to be named after municipal elections planned for later this year.

Two-thirds of the council is to be elected indirectly and the remaining third appointed by Mr. Zerroual, giving him virtual veto power over legislation. The parliament will replace one appointed by authorities after the 1992 coup that ousted President Chadli Bendjedid and cancelled the previous election. A constitutional revision creating the second house, which was approved in a November referendum, also banned political parties based on religion and language.

But the Movement for an Islamic Society, best known as Hamas, was allowed to participate in this election after changing its name to the Movement for a Society of Peace. Another Islamist party, Ennahda (renaissance), also is in the race. Hamas, a moderate group unrelated to the militant Palestinian movement of the same name, has been denounced by exiled Salvation Front leaders as a lackey of the military regime. Numerous opposition parties have denounced the creation three months ago of the National Democratic Rally, referred to as "the president's party" because it boasts Prime Minister Mohamed Ouyahia

and other key government officials as candidates.

"The elections are a pure and simple formality meant to enhance the dictatorship with a facade of democracy," said El Ribat, a newsletter put out by Islamic Salvation Front sympathisers. Islamic militants seek a government based on Koranic law.

That would mean requiring women to cover their heads, banning alcohol and instituting compulsory religious education, among other things. Such a system is Anathema to many secular Algerians who subscribe to western ways, learned during the 130-year French colonial period that ended in 1962 after a bloody, eight-year rebellion. Candidates have failed to squarely address the real concern of citizens — the struggling economy.

The unemployment rate is 28 per cent, with two-thirds of the jobless under 30 years old. Analysts say it is jobless young people who latched onto the cause of fundamentalists promising a better world and now feed the ranks of guerrilla groups trying to topple the regime. Militants also rail against government corruption, which remains a fixture of Algerian life, ranging from routine skimming off the top of large contracts to demanding bribes for delivering menial services. Authorities "have run this country single-handedly," said Sadi, head of the Rally for Culture and Democracy party, said in a recent campaign speech.

"Their failure has been consummated."

Ruling party faces vote of confidence in Canada's shortest deputy elections

OTTAWA (AFP) — Canada's shortest election campaign ever comes to a head Monday when voters choose 301 members of parliament, and indirectly, a head of government.

Prime Minister Jean Chretien's ruling Liberal Party is widely expected to be returned to power for up to five years, but it may not have the commanding majority it won in 1993.

Some 18.7 million voters are eligible to cast ballots and will choose from among 1,672 candidates from five major parties.

But only the Liberals, the Progressive Conservatives and New Democratic Party are present nationwide.

Two big regional parties are expected to have a major influence: the independence-minded Bloc Quebecois, seeking a sovereign French-speaking Quebec, and the ultra-conservative Reform Party,

which is strong in the western provinces.

Votes for those parties will determine the shape of the opposition and the issues likely to be faced in the new parliament. Many analysts believe the Bloc will retain its overall popularity in Quebec, the only province where it fields candidates, and be returned as the largest opposition party.

The leader of the party with the most number of seats will automatically become prime minister.

The Liberals had 174 of the 295 in the old House of Commons. Few observers see any credible challenge to Mr. Chretien, but he may not have an absolute majority in the new parliament, according to some surveys.

Jean Charest, the leader of the Progressive Conservatives, is trying to resurrect a party that lost its ruling majority in 1993, and

was reduced to just two seats in the parliament.

He is expected to win back some seats, but many voters still remember his party under former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, when it got a sleaze image which has been difficult to shake off.

The campaign has lasted just 36 days, the shortest in Canadian history. But the voting over five time zones will last some 18 hours from the opening in Newfoundland to the closing in the last western vote districts.

Five new districts were created since 1993 as a result of a new census. Ontario, the most populous province, has 103 seats, followed by Quebec with 75. The vast Yukon Territory has just one member.

In 1993, some 70 per cent of eligible voters cast ballots.

COLUMN

Egyptian civil servants indolent — study

CAIRO (AFP) — Half of Egypt's civil servants are lazy, a malaise that is costing the state three billion pounds (\$580 million) a year, according to a published study. Of the country's 2.2 million civil servants, half are "lazy and do not accomplish the tasks they are charged with," said the study by a government-run national administration centre, the opposition newspaper Al Wafd reported. "Some 330,000 state employees do nothing and prefer to amuse themselves or squabble rather than being of service," the study said, adding that 15 per cent of senior civil servants do not fulfil their duties properly. Almost 600,000 orderlies wander aimlessly through corridors while chaos reigns in offices where mountains of rubbish pile up, it said.

50-year-old Fawcett to pose for Playboy

WASHINGTON (AFP) — U.S. actress Farrah Fawcett says she still has sex appeal at age 50 and aims to flaunt it in the July issue of Playboy magazine. Dubbed "Farrah's naked art special," the magazine's 14-page spread reveals the blonde film and television star has an artistic side. "I've wanted to do body painting ever since I was at the University of Texas in 1968," Fawcett told Playboy. "I played around with a little body painting then. I wasn't interested in painting my body, in being a living canvas. I wanted to use my body as a brush, to actually paint with parts of my body."

Forceps removed from man's stomach after 47 years

BOGOTA (AFP) — Surgeons successfully removed a forceps that a worker carried for almost half a century inside his abdomen, a doctor in the city of Valledupar reported. Worker Silvio Jimenez couldn't figure out why he was having stomach cramps until he was recently X-rayed — and doctors discovered a forceps inside his abdomen. Back in 1950 Jimenez, then age 20, was stabbed at a party and rushed to the Valledupar Regional Hospital, some 878 kilometres north of Bogota. The doctor who operated on him at that time forgot one of his tools inside his patient, said Rafael Zabaleta, the Valledupar doctor who removed the forgotten forceps late Friday.

Spice Girl Adams to marry England footballer — paper

LONDON (R) — Spice Girl Victoria Adams is to marry an English international footballer, a British newspaper reported Sunday in an article accompanied by a picture of the pop star emerging from a wedding dress shop. The Sunday Mirror named the groom-to-be as David Beckham, the Manchester United player who Saturday helped his country to a 2-0 victory over Poland. Beckham parked his BMW car in the drive of the Adams family home in Goff's Oak, north of London, before the match, the paper said. Neither Beckham nor singer Adams, known as "Posh Spice," was quoted in the article, which also did not name the day for wedding bells to ring out. "David would be welcomed into our family," Adams' mother Jackie told the Mirror. "He is such a decent guy, I couldn't ask more for my daughter. There's been a lot of speculation about Victoria and David, but the future is up to them."

Philippines yearns for U.S. protection from red China

MANILA (R) — Five years after driving U.S. forces from their biggest overseas naval base, the Philippines is again turning to its old ally to ward off what it sees as threats from China.

In 1992, the United States shut down Subic Bay, the last of its two big military bases in the country, after Manila rejected a new bases pact with Washington, ending nearly a century of U.S. military presence.

Today, as disputes between Manila and Beijing heat up over ownership of a cluster of bleak isles in the South China Sea, the Philippines is only too aware that it is in no position to defend itself from what Filipinos call the "bully" from the north.

The flare-up of a long-fes-

tering dispute over the Spratly Islands and adjacent reefs and shoals has spurred calls from some Filipino leaders for the return of a U.S. military presence.

President Fidel Ramos has dismissed the calls, but concedes the need to keep the U.S. armed might in the neighbourhood. "We must work out new ways of supporting the continued presence of the United States in the region and maintaining our bilateral alliance under the Philippine-U.S. mutual defence treaty," he said last month during a visit to the United States.

For Filipinos, the dispute over the Spratly Islands "is the nearest source of possible conflict," Mr. Ramos said.

Tension flared in April after

China sent armed naval ships near islands which Manila claims in the Spratlys. It was Beijing's turn to lash back when Filipino fishermen hoisted their country's flag over Scarborough shoal, a scattering of deserted rocks well north of the Spratlys. Beijing says everything in the South China Sea, which straddles a vital commercial seaway plied by about 400 ships daily, has belonged to China since ancient times. Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei also claim some or all of the islands.

Washington said last week it was not interested in reopening bases in the Philippines and warned it would oppose use of force to settle the South China Sea disputes.